THE OMAHA BEE

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THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., PROP'S

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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A MILWAUKEE firm is manufacturing an immense stock of imitation prayer-books for the shipment of whisky into the prohibitory state of Iowa. This prayer-book will very likely have a large circulation in Iowa.

THE brewers of Iowa closed their bars yesterday, but will open them again to-day, and will continue brewing in defiance of the prohibitory law. They may find that while they are brewing beer, trouble is brewing for them.

IT is not always safe for a passenger in a Pullman car, when he loses his pocket-book, to accuse the porter of having stolen it. A Pullman porter on the Alton road has just been awarded $5,000 by a Chicago jury for having been wrongfully accused of larceny by a passenger.

THE Chicago *Times* pertinently says that it might be in order for Mr. Charles Francis Adams, who has lately been made the president of the Union Pacific road, to inform the stockholders of that institution, whose money is building the Oregon short line, developing several frontier towns, and stocking the cattle ranches of some of the recent managers.

THE city attorney of Springfield, Missouri, having being suspended from office by the mayor, threatens, unless the order is revoked, to institute proceedings for the purpose of ousting the mayor and three members of the city council from office for violating the state constitution by accepting free transportation from the railroads. If such a law were in force in Nebraska, a great many vacancies could be made in the various offices.

AND now comes another man and says he would not accept the democratic nomination. This time it is Charles A. Dana, who says that he has constantly declined all suggestions looking toward the effort to be nominated for the presidency, and that he is content to remain the editor of the *Sun*. Mr. Dana probably fears that if he were nominated and defeated he would become the inmate of a lunatic asylum as did poor Horace Greeley. Mr. Dana is a very sensible man.

THE committee on invalid pensions will, it is said, make a strong effort to secure the passage of the bill prepared and introduced by Congressman Laird, of Nebraska, among the pension laws, which bill has been reported favorably to to the house. Its leading provisions are: First, that soldiers who passed the examination of the surgeons of the United States and were regularly mustered in shall be deemed to have been physically sound when so accepted; second, that after three months' service in the field all injuries sustained shall be presumed to have been received in the line of duty, unless shown to the contrary; and third, that all pensioners and applicants for pensions shall have the common-law right of being made acquainted with the names of their accusers in the event of charges being filed against them in the pension office.

THE coal oil inspection law of Iowa requires the coal oil inspector to work under the instructions of the state board of health. The inspector, however, has recently seen fit to pay no regard to the rules of the board, whose regulations were not agreeable to the Standard oil company, with whom the inspector seems to be on too friendly and favorable terms. The inspector recently refused to obey the rule that requires the inspector to remove all other brands from barrels before affixing the state brand. This would locate definitely the inspection and prevent any attempt to overvalue the oil. When the board of health called the inspector's attention to the rule and demanded that he should rigidly enforce it, he emphatically refused to do so, asserting that the rule was arbitrary and he would not obey it. The law creating his office expressly requires the governor to remove the inspector and appoint another in case the board of health shall demand such action, and they have determined to do so unless the inspector shall obey instructions. He has been officially notified that the board does not propose to have any more foolishness.

THE work of reform in the municipal affairs of Omaha, which has been begun with the indictment of the mayor, marshal and an ex-councilmen, for bribery and corruption in office, and the impeachment and removal of the mayor and the resignation of the marshal, is not only having a good effect in this community, but it is bearing good fruit elsewhere. The action of the grand jury and city council is being commented upon in terms of the highest praise by the press everywhere, and in cities where municipal reform is needed as much as it is here, the example of Omaha in bringing corrupt officials to justice is being followed. In the city of Rochester, N. Y., the grand jury has been investing the city officials, and it has just presented indictments against the president of the city council for offering to sell his influence to the Baltimore & Ohio telegraph company, against an ex-councilman for perjury and bribery, against one school commissioner for embracery and against another for misconduct in office. The indictment against the ex-councilman charges him with having received nearly $3,000 for procuring appointments to public office. This will explain how some councilmen get rich on nominal salaries. One of the school commissioners was indicted for attempting to influence a grand juror by offering him fifty dollars.

THE rumors concerning the ill-health and contemplated resignation of General Manager Clark, of the Union Pacific, continue to float over the country at frequent intervals and in all sorts of shapes. The wildest rumor is that he insists on his resignation being accepted, and that it is understood that he is to be succeeded by Tom Potter, general manager of the Burlington, at a salary of $30,000 a year for five years. The fact is that Mr. Clark is in very good health and is devoting all his time and energy to the discharge of the duties of his position. He has not tendered his resignation, and does not propose to. As to Tom Potter being offered $30,000 a year to succeed him, no more absurd story could have been started. It is not likely that the Union Pacific, which is reported to be on the verge of bankruptcy, and is cutting down expenses all along the line, would indulge in any such extravagance as a thirty thousand dollar manager. Tom Potter or any other living man is worth thirty thousand dollars to the Union Pacific as general manager. The Union Pacific has for years been paying too extravagant salaries to its high officials, and the probability is that under the retrenchment, inaugurated by President Adams, the high-salaried officers will be reduced in pay and number.

THE Iowa prohibitory law has gone into effect. It is now predicted that an army of sneaks and informers will find employment in watching all persons suspected of dealing or handling liquor in any shape. The law is very strict. It prohibits people from keeping liquor in their houses in unusual quantities, which will probably be construed to mean more than a pint at a time. It is evident that informers, in their eagerness to earn rewards, will even invade private houses in search of liquor. If the law is enforced to the letter, it will soon become obnoxious to the people who voted for it, and its appeal or modification will be the result. There is no doubt that all sorts of evasions will be practiced, and already railroads have prepared a way for shipment of liquors. They have issued an amended order to shipping agents to decline to receive freights "for points on or reached by this line and its connections," unless the name of the consignee is given in full with shipping directions, the initials of the name being insufficient for a proper identification of the consignee. The property itself may be forwarded with the initials only, or some other disignating mark on it; but the shipping directions and billing from the shipping station must in every case show the name of the consignee in full. This is taken to mean that by packing in queer boxes labeled "merchandise," dealers or others may ship liquors if they will leave the initials of their names on the boxes.

OUR ASSESSMENT.

THE BEE says that the valuation of Omaha for taxation purposes is only $7,000,000, and that it has not been changed for years.

This is a mistake and ought to be generally corrected. The valuation of Omaha to-day upon which we are to be taxed is over $9,000,000, an increase of 2,000,000 in two years.—*Omaha Republican.*

THE BEE has made no mistake in its statements regarding the assessments. We have from time to time stated that the assessment of Omaha for several years has been about $7,000,000, and such is the undeniable fact. This assessment is lower than the assessment of 1870, when the city had not over 20,000 people, and real estate was depressed.

Within the past month, however, the county commissioners, acting no doubt upon the suggestions of THE BEE, have slightly revised the assessments, and the result of their work, which has just been announced, is the raising of the valuation of Douglas county about $1,500,000, which added to the county valuation of last year makes the valuation this year about $12,069,507. This makes the valuation of the city of Omaha this year about $9,000,000. The county commissioners are entitled to some little credit for this small increase in the valuation, but they must revise the valuation many millions more before we reach anywhere near the actual value of property. The valuation of the city of Omaha ought to be at the very least from $18,000,000 to $20,000,000. In their revision of the assessment rolls the county commissioners have found the work carelessly done by men who either know little or nothing of the value of work or who have intentionally undervalued property. Most of them have obtained the assessment rolls of previous years and merely copied off the figures, not even going to the trouble of viewing the property assessed or posting themselves as to the numerous improvements that have been made. All they seemed to care for was to complete their work with as little labor and trouble as possible, and in the shortest possible time, so that they could draw their pay. This shiftless way of doing business comes from the manner of electing assessors. Tom, Dick, and Harry are elected to this important office without regard to qualification. Our people seem to forget that the office of assessor is a very important one, and at elections they take little or no interest in the selection of candidates. We still insist that we need and must have a thorough reform in our assessment system. We believe that some provision ought to be made for the appointment of one competent general assessor for the city, with power to appoint deputies, or else a board of real estate appraisers, to consist of men who are acknowledged judges of the value of real estate, should be appointed. Some legislation is necessary to regulate this matter, and no doubt at the next session of the legislature this subject will be properly legislated upon.

"OUR CARTER."

THE Illinois democrats have nominated for governor a man who has achieved national notoriety as "the best mayor Chicago ever had," according to his own estimate of himself. It is almost unnecessary to say that his name is Carter Harrison, familiarly called "Our Carter" by Chicagoans. He is a college-bred man, a lawyer by profession, a politician by occupation, and an orator of no little renown. He has served two terms in congress, and it was during his first term that he discovered that he was an orator. His centennial speech at Philadelphia, while attending a congressional banquet, gave him the title of "Our Carter." He had not spoken in congress up to this time, or even upon such an occasion, and was called upon to respond to the toast, "Agricultural the Basis of Commerce." Raising his voice to a pitch which he had never reached before, he uttered these words: "I came from a district three miles long and two miles wide, and in it we raise more grain than many states combined. It is raised by elevators." This caused a roar, and it continued until he recovered. He began again and forced himself to be funny, lest he should have a relapse. The papers next morning had him reported as C. Henry Harrison. The news came to Chicago, and a paper asked: 'Who is this C. Henry Harrison, of Chicago?' And the next day the same paper answered the conundrum: "Why, it is our Carter." It travelled and fastened upon him, and there it remains. His next speech to attract any attention was the one deliverad just before he left congress. It was known his "Marine band" speech, and from it grew the cognomen of "the Eagle." In his fancy he soared from ocean to ocean, and thus it was that he was dubbed after the great American bird.

The nominatian of Harrison is regarded by the republicans of Illinois with a great deal of pleasure, as it weakens the democratic party and entangles it in a complication of "contradictions and absurdities" from which it cannot extricate itself. Leading republicans claim the democrats will be defeated by 40,000 majority.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

There is no longer any doubt that Gladstone will be overwhelmingly sustained in his cause with regard to the proposed policy in the future management of Egyptian affairs as outlined in the agreement between the French and English ministry. The conservative outlook in England is certainly gloomy. It seems to have been agreed that there was no hope that the vote of censure on the Egyptian policy of the government would prevail, and the Egyptian policy is without doubt the most vulnerable point in Mr. Gladstone's administration. What chance the conservatives have against him in domestic politics is shown, on their own evidence, by their failure even to demand a division on the franchise bill, which was ordered to a third reading last evening by a unanimous vote. Wonderful as this result seems, it has been evident, ever since Disraeli's characteristic stroke of 1867, that no effective opposition could or would be offered to any extension of the suffrage. The present bill is a very long stride toward universal suffrage. In fact, with all the complicated clauses and classifications of the bill, its actual effect will be to enfranchise almost every Englishman who is not a tramp or a pauper. Under it one-seventh of the population is entitled to vote, whereas under our unrestricted suffrage only one-fifth is in possession of the suffrage. The lords will scarcely venture really to obstruct the bill, much as they must dislike so ominous a threat against the privileges of their order as it makes. To withstand the unanimous vote of the commons would be mere madness. The reference to their attitude which Sir Stafford Northcote called Mr. Gladstone to order for making was, therefore, not only irregular but unseemly. The new measure is more radical than any of the preceding reform bills, or than all of them together. It does not frankly abandon the pretense, but it abandons everything except the pretense, that political power in Great Britain is based upon property and not upon numbers.

The cordial understanding between England und France on the Egyptian question appears to give great umbrage to Prince Bismarck, to judge from the bitter language of one of his organs, the Cologne *Gazette*. If this understanding between the two Western Powers is not due to the common hatred of Germany, as the organ asserts, it is doubtless the result of a common fear of that power, which the organ doubtless means. It would be strange if England and France were to remain indifferent to the military menace of Germany and should fail to make preparations to resist its power. The Cologne *Gazette* very truly says that England, "some day in the near future," may have need of France as a sort of shield bearer; but it is likely that France will have quite as great need of England. In fact, this is the only alliance that is left in Europe to make a stand against the tremenduous military power of the new Holy Alliance of Germany, Artria and Italy.

The death of the prince of Orange will probably have little effect on European politics, although the succession of a princess 4 years old under the regency of her mother is not a desirable contingency for Dutchmen to contemplate. Prince Bismarck, with his customary arrogance, has announced that Germany will resent any attempt to make the succession a European question. There is no reason, perhaps, why it should be treated as a German question, which appears to be Bismarck's alternative. Bismarck has done notable work in the way of absorbing small German states into the empire, but they were at least all German. The annexation of Holland would be the acquisition of a people alien in blood and in speech from Germany, and would be a source of weakness and not of strength to the empire. The Dutch ministry, it will be observed, declines to permit the regency of Queen Emma with any member of the German branch of the royal family, though the queen herself is of the house of Waldeck-Pyrmont. Upon the whole there is no reason to doubt that the jealousies of the great powers, which have maintained the independence of Holland for so many years, will be relaxed in order to permit Germany to make an acquisition she ought not to desire. It is reported that negotiations are on foot between England and France in regard to to the Dutch succession. Lord Granville favors Holland and Belgium being united under rule of King Leopold's successor each country, however, having a separate parliament and a sedarate administration, and aliowing Germany to annex the Gaud Duchy of Luxembourg. France is not disposed to sanction this scheme.

It is pretty accurately ascertained that Spain does not wish to sell Cuba. The Madrid Dons have squeezed so much money out of that unfortunate island that even in the present depressed financial condition of the Cubans and with an incipient rebellion on their hands, they propose to keep up the squeezing process and get what ducats are left. Forty years ago Spain positively refused to sell the island to us for $100,000,000, and the only probability of incorporating Cuba in the American Union lies in a successful Cuban rebellion and a Cuban plebiscite, voting the island in, or in a war with Spain on our part and the captureof the property as spoils of war. The latter method is hardly a subject for intelligent consideration now.

The curiously made-up commission recently appointed by the czar to search into the causes of military nihilism report that the disaffected officers have had two substantial grievances. The pay of the officers is inadequate, and the system of promotion in the Russian army, tainted as it is by favoritism, nepotism and corruption, teems with injustices. There is a certain frankness in this open avowal of grave abuses by the Grand Duke Vladimir and his colleagues, which gives birth to a hope that necessary reforms may, after all, be in serious contemplation at the winter palace. Were there no intension on the part of the Czar to remedy the evils revealed and admitted by the cammission, it is not conceivable that this report would have been made public. An era of reform, once begun in Russia, may go far to lessen the weight of Tartaric despotism; and certainly, next to the reform of the corrupt and rapacious bureaucracy, there is none likely to be more warmly welcomed by the hardy subjects of the czar than that of the abuses in the imperial army and navy.

The so-called "election" has occurred in Mexico, and General Diaz will next winter become president of the republic once more. No uprising or revolution is likely to deprive him of the office. The return of this eminent and most progressive citizen to power will be an occasion for rejoicing on both sides of the Rio Grande, and in Europe as well as America. For there could be no better assurance that the material and moral progress of Mexico is not to cease. General Diaz embodies the aims of the more enlightened Mexicans. His policy looks to the cultivation of the country's resources, to friendship with the United States and all other powers, and to the domestication of modern ideas. The "election" of president is merely a formal ratification by a handful of voters of the purposes of the military chiefs who manage public affairs. The choice of Diaz accordingly shows that the ruling spirits, backed by the army and by the greater part of the more intelligent people, are of his way of thinking about these innovations. So long as this remains true, the disaffected will have little opportunity to exhibit on a large scale their dislike for the novelties in public affairs so warmly advocated by Don Porfirio and his wide-awake supporters.

The Portuguese minister at Paris has been smoothing over the provisions of the Anglo-Portuguese treaty concerning the Congo, in order to relieve France. Portugal is willing to have a Congo commission, modeled upon the Danube commission, composed of representatives of all nations interested in affairs in these regions; she does not desire to increase her territory in Africa, nor does she intend to levy duties, except for the mere expenses of guarding the rivers. In fact, Portugal's entire effort is devoted to enabling small traders to get their share of the advantages of Congo commerce, and will welcome any international arrangement to protect the rights of all. Portugal has nothing but the small reminiscences of her old exploring greatness to attach her to Africa or any other place outside her narrow borders, and it is very kind of her to say she doesn't want to make mischief.

The German government has until recently avoided any discussion of a colonial policy. The system of Bismark was intended for profitable effectuation in Europe. He is too profound an observer of the operations of neighboring nations to engage in any reckless foreign explorations, for that is the policy that has weakened and destroyed many powerful states and for that reason he has never yet opposed the French tendency in African and Asiatic aggrandizement. The sensativeness of the chancellor on the subject of Angra Pequena, in Great Namaqua Land on the west coast of Africa, is a strip of territory which some German gentlemen who happened to land there last year, bought from the native king for five hundred old muskets and about $500 in gold. The territory is nearly 6,000 square miles in area, and it contains a very good harbor. The German colonists are beginning to settle along the coast. The missionaries who have been in Nemaqua Land for some time, fear lest the new comers may bring rum and whiskey with other paraphernalia of civilization, and debauch the natives.

Major Von der Goltz, a German warrior of the Von Moltke sort, has recently written a book on the necessity of war and large armaments. "The control of the world," he says, "cannot be acquired save by war, and can be maintained only by war. The time of cabinet war is all very fine to talk of disarming and preventing bloodshed, but that is an error which should be corrected. In the domain of war the most dangerous errors are those that come from kindliness of the heart. Those who employ force must use it without regard to consequences, without a thought of the blood that is shed." This is the Moltke doctrine; the doctrine which built up the House of Hohenzollern, which to-day rests on a pedestal of gross injustice, blood and the spoils of war. It is the effectuation of this relentless doctrine which has made all Europe arm, until Germany can call six million soldiers in the field in the event of war, and Russia can bring out thirteen millions. That is the paper strength of these governments, but it is no exaggeration as to material. As to soldiers perfectly drilled and prepared for the duties of the field, Germany has in keeping, for instant use, 3,860,000 men and Russia has 2,500,000 equally well prepared. Austria-Hungary can put in the field 1,265,000 soldiers, and Italy's strength is 2,560,000 men, making about ten millions of combatants from the four countries. France is taxed to death to prepare for the "general war" which the old dogs of war say must sooner or later devastate Europe, and she can send two million men into the field, prepared. Taking into consideration the costly navies which all these powers are continually strengthening, it is easy to perceive the source of the large European budgets. Billions of money have been taken from peaceful enterprises and millions of men have been taken from peace-producing industries.

The collapse of the Chinese campaign against the French has completely exploded the apprehension quite current a few years ago in European military journals that breech-loaders and ironclads would make China a formidable military power. The portion of the Chinese army which has received European discipline is small, and even that has not profited very much. A letter from Canton in the London News says there was great rage in the community at the defeat in Tonquin, and strenuous efforts were made by the distribution of illustrated placards to convince the people that the Chinese fell upon the French "like tigers upon goats." The foreign population anticipated serious trouble in case of a Chinese victory.

The Chilian newspapers contain some some curious statistics concerning the occupation of Lima by their country's troops. They estimate at nine thousand the number of children born there of Peruvian mothers and Chilian soldiers during thirty-three months, and, as a great part of the troops have gone home already, and in many cases taken these motners and children along with them by permission of the Chilian government, and the occupation is to cease altogether in August they compute the accession to to the population of Chili from this source at fourteen thousand.

The returns all show that the total reduction made in the rents of the Irish peasantry by the land commission will amount this year to nearly £3,000,000 sterling. It is perhaps impossible for the people on the American side of the Atlantic to appreciate the magnitude of this gain to the Irish people. It not only leaves for circulation among a people numbering less than 5,000,000, an increased sum of about $15,000,000 that otherwise would be drained out of the country and spent elsewhere, but it actually reduces the Irish taxation $3 per capita. Americans have probably noticed one result—a lessening of the demands for the relief of Irish distress. Throughout Ireland, the result is palpable. Poor people, who for years past have seldom had a shilling of money in their possession, are now occasionally seen in the small shops, happy in their ability to spend an occasional half sovereign. The general effect upon the temper of the people is very perceptible. The farmers and the shop-keepers who depend on them, are decidedly better off than they have been for several years past. The other class of store-keepers, whose trade consists chiefly is supplying the nobility and landlords, complain bitterly of hard times. This accounts for the conflicting reports which now go out from Ireland. If you go into a first-class shop you hear that trade was never worse, and if you go into a second-class shop it is generally admitted that trade was never better.

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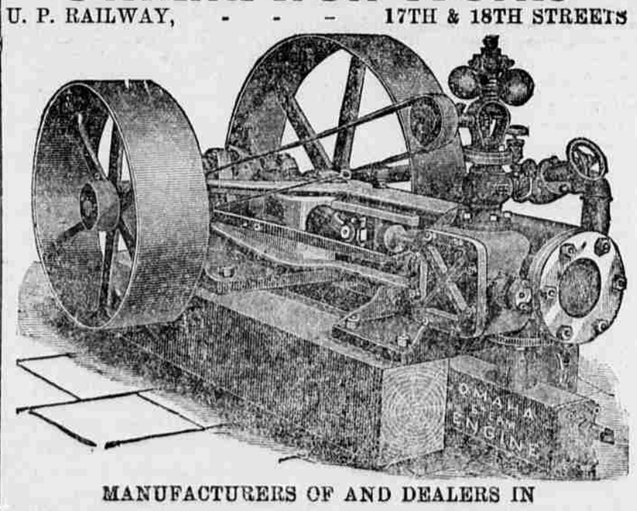

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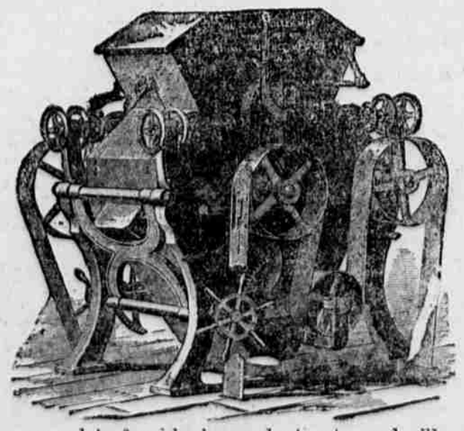

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