

THE OMAHA BEE.

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

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ASSESSMENT REFORMS.

The Illinois committee on revenue reform, appointed by the real estate board, has submitted its report, recommending several changes in the manner of making assessments. The chairman of the committee, in explaining the report, attacked the small assessments paid by railroad companies and corporations. The state tax for 1883 amounted to about \$40,000,000, of which \$28,000,000 was assessed on real estate, while only a little over \$3,000,000 had been paid by the railroads and other corporations. It seems that the boards of equalization in Illinois, like those in Nebraska, failed to discover that the rights of way, which, as a rule, cost large sums of money, as well as the numerous sidetracks, were worth anything. In Illinois, as in Nebraska, there seems to be a leniency manifested towards railroads in matter of assessments. The Chicago News, in commenting on this fact says: 'Nearly every railroad owning property in the city has been assessed this year less than last. The famous Western Indiana, which was assessed last year \$15,000, in this year passed by without notice, while some roads, which by their advertisements would lead one to suppose were roads of no secondary importance are not assessed a penny. The effort to place the burdens of government upon real estate is more serious than it appears at first glance, but when this burden makes itself felt in rents upon places of business and homes it will begin to be appreciated, and that, too, in a quarter where it will produce great hardship. The ease with which real estate can be found and the difficulties of assessing personal property are no excuse for so unfair an assessment as has been made the present year, which does not admit of any excuse based upon either reason, justice, or the laws under which the assessors are presumed to act. What is needed in Chicago and in Omaha, and in nearly every city of the country, is a fair and honest assessment, under which the rich shall be taxed in proportion to their wealth, so that the greater burden shall not fall upon the persons of moderate means. There is too much concealment of personal assets, and an effort should everywhere be made to secure complete statements of personal property as well as real estate. Railroads and other corporations should be treated the same as individuals and be compelled to stand their proper share of taxation. The office of assessor, therefore, should be filled by active and vigilant business men, who would do their work accurately and promptly, without fear or favor. As a rule the assessors are men of no business qualifications whatever and possessing no ideas of the real value of property. The majority of them depend upon the assessment rolls of their predecessors from which they simply make copies, thus avoiding a personal inspection of property and inquiries as to its present value. Reform is certainly needed in the manner of making our assessments as well as in the qualifications of assessors.'

SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.

The movement for the emancipation of slaves in Brazil has received a fresh impetus by the presentation of a new government measure in the chamber of deputies for the immediate liberation of all slaves over sixty years of age, for the localization of slaves in the provinces where they are now domiciled, for new taxes in favor of the emancipation fund, and for various restrictions in the transfer and possession of slave property. This measure of course meets with violent opposition from the slave-holding element, for they naturally fear that it will lead to the early extinction of slavery. This measure, which has become one of the leading questions in Brazil and may precipitate a civil war in the cause of freedom, provides for the liberation of all slaves over sixty years of age, and that they shall be supported either by their ex-masters or by the state. It is required also that there shall be an immediate matriculation of slaves, supplementary to that of 1871 and 1873, in which all the particulars of each slave, including value, shall be recorded. This must be done within one year, and all slaves not so matriculated shall be free. The taxes that are to be imposed for the emancipation fund, are to be used in purchasing the freedom of slaves from their masters. The maximum values are to be fixed as follows: \$800 for those under 30 years; \$700 for those between 30 and 40; \$600 for those between 40 and 50; and \$400 for those between 50 and 60. Taxes are to be imposed on the transmission of slaves by inheritance or by bequest, varying from five to fifty per cent, and a tax of ten per cent is to be collected on all sales of slaves. To transfer a slave from one province to another, except when accompanying his master, will render him a freeman. Agencies for the purchase and sale of slaves are to be prohibited.

How It Looks.

Unless all signs fail Blaine and Logan will carry every northern state. This would give them 248 of the 401 electoral votes, even should the 153 votes of the sixteen former slave states be cast for Cleveland. The only northern states in this campaign are New York, 36 votes; Indiana, 11; New Jersey, 12; New York, 3; and perhaps California, if that state little doubt but that the latter state will give a majority to Blaine. Some democrats are so sanguine as to claim Connecticut 2 votes, New Hampshire 4, and even Ohio 23, but unless the republican canvass is caught by some unforeseen and all but impossible cyclone, the three states last named do not belong to the doubtful column, and will give the republicans, with Maine, 6; Vermont, 4; Massachusetts, 14; Rhode Island, 4; Pennsylvania, 30; Illinois, 22; Michigan, 13; Wisconsin, 11; Minnesota, 7; Iowa, 13; Kansas, 9; Nebraska, 5; Colorado, 3; and Oregon, 3, a grand total of 177 votes, which may be much more than beyond any ordinary peradventure.

There is a very flattering prospect of breaking the solid south in the campaign by the capture of West Virginia's six votes by the republicans. There is a good chance, too, that the democrats may lose both Virginia's twelve votes and Louisiana's eight, but we do not anchor our hopes in the prospect of those states, but if it comes it is welcome. It requires this year 201 electoral votes to elect a president. As we have seen, the republicans are certain of 177 votes without a southern state or New York, New Jersey, Indiana, California or Nevada. Should they win of these latter states only New York, the republican ticket will have 213 votes, or twelve more than a majority. Should they lose New York and New Jersey and win Indiana, Nevada and California, they will have two more than a majority. Losing both New York and Indiana and carrying California, New Jersey, West Virginia and Nevada, the republicans will again have two more than a majority. Conceding to the democrats every southern state except West Virginia, to obtain a majority they must gain at least fifty-four votes from the doubtful states, which they cannot do without getting New York and two other states. The republicans on the other hand need but twenty-two votes from the doubtful states, and New York state is not necessary to their success. That the prohibition vote will have a very appreciable effect in this election is very probable. Prohibitionists, as a rule, are men of sense, the majority of

THE DOUGLAS DELEGATION.

It has been given out with a grand flourish of trumpets that the delegation from Douglas county to the state convention favors the re-nomination of Governor Dawes, and that the delegates to the congressional convention are in favor of Weaver. This report has no foundation in fact. There was no contest in Douglas county for or against Dawes or Weaver. A large majority of the republicans in this county took no part in the primaries and took no interest in the convention. They were thoroughly disgusted with the star-chamber method of calling the primaries, and had no chance of attending the caucus as no call was published in any of the papers. Many of these republicans refuse to bind themselves to the support of candidates who will owe their nominations to the trickery, jugglery and fraud, which are a part of the present system of primary elections, and they purposely stayed away from the polls. The result was that the convention was a jug-handle affair. Dawes and Weaver were not thought of, except perhaps by a few custom house menials who made themselves very promiscuous. The delegations to the state and congressional conventions were chosen by wards from among the delegates present. No questions were asked as to their preference for any candidate, and they are entirely free. At least one-half of the state delegation will oppose the re-nomination of Dawes, unless no candidate presents himself against him. Thurston and Nye are for Dawes, and their support indicates the drift of the Union Pacific. Weaver will have the support of the federal office holders in the delegation, but fully two-thirds of the nineteen delegates from Douglas would prefer another man if he is available. They feel that there is a grave doubt about Weaver's election if the opposition nominates some popular and capable candidate. This is the unvarnished truth about the Douglas county delegation.

SENATOR DAWES, of Massachusetts, has written a letter in defense of Agent McGillicuddy, of Pine Ridge, who has been assailed by Dr. Bland, of Washington. Senator Dawes asserts that Dr. Bland has the confidence of no one, and that he is as wild in his attempts to state facts as he is in his ideas of what is the proper policy toward the race which he thinks he is serving. The charges made by Dr. Bland are not only old, but have been officially investigated four times, and by voluntary associations many times more. Senator Dawes maintains that the trouble at Pine Ridge arises from a conflict between the new and the old order of things--between the power of the chiefs and the power of the law. Red Cloud, who is backed up by Bland, is for the old order of things, when chiefs ruled and made themselves rich out of the Indians. McGillicuddy, however, pays no more attention to Red Cloud than he does to any other Indian, and this, of course, is very annoying to the ex-chiefs, who are very discontented and always eager to listen to anyone who is inclined to stir up trouble. It will be remembered that Red Cloud two years ago attempted to assert his authority over Agent McGillicuddy, and it was feared that he would precipitate a massacre of all the whites at the agency. McGillicuddy, however, with his usual nerve, met the issue squarely and by his courage and prudence averted the threatened massacre. The trouble was then officially investigated, and the result was that McGillicuddy was exonerated from the charges made against him by Red Cloud and Inspector Pollock. Red Cloud then called Dr. Bland to his assistance and Bland induced the secretary of war to send out a third inspector, who also exonerated McGillicuddy from all charges. Then followed several independent investigations by different persons interested in the Indians and the result was the same. The Indian commission itself visited the agency and returned a report to the interior department highly complimentary to the administration of McGillicuddy. The strong testimony of Senator Dawes in favor of McGillicuddy ought to settle the matter so far as the charges of Philanthropist Bland are concerned, but where there is so much smoke there may after all be some fire. It should, however, be borne in mind, that so long as Red Cloud lives there is liable to be more or less trouble among the Pine Ridge Indians, because the deposed chief will never neglect an opportunity to make it interesting for McGillicuddy.

GREAT stress is laid by the friends of Governor Dawes, down in Saline county, on the fact that the convention requested him to dictate the delegations to the state, congressional and judicial conventions. Saline county may be satisfied with a dictator, and its conventions may be made up of men who lack the manhood to resent boson as an insult to their intelligence and self-respect. The spectacle of a sovereign convention of republicans falling upon their knees before a governor and begging him to put a ring in their noses and a yoke upon their necks is decidedly edifying. To request Dawes to choose his own delegation to the state convention might have been excusable, but to ask him to dictate whom Saline county should vote for as congressman, judge, or district attorney is a confession of degradation which free American citizens are seldom willing to boast of.

ONE of the biggest little men in this western country is Mayor Vaughan of Council Bluffs. Mayor Vaughan is at present engaged in making a tour of the principal cities of the east and introducing himself to the chief officials, the politicians and the newspapers as the mayor of Council Bluffs, and endeavoring to impress everybody that he is a great man in the great state of Iowa. In every city that he has visited thus far he has had himself interviewed on the political outlook in his state. His latest effort in this direction appears in the New York Herald. Mayor Vaughan has figured it out for the Herald that Cleveland will carry Iowa. Mayor Vaughan can now contest with "Eli Perkins" for the honor of being the champion liar of America.

BEN BUTLER'S CANDIDACY.

He is declared not to be the Candidate of the Labor Organizations. Chicago News, Aug. 9th. 'For a month or so this has been said again and again in one of the morning papers, and, in fact, it is quoted in a great many papers all over the country, that Ben Butler has the labor organizations, the socialists, and the greenbacks at his back, and call Well, sir, it is not true, emphatically not. "Why was not Butler nominated for president by these organizations?" asked the reporter in astonishment, of the speaker, who is one of the leaders of the laboring element in the city, but who preferred to have his name withheld. "No, sir, he was not." This was said with a perceptible tinge of asperity. "You seem to have fallen into the same error as the papers I spoke of. The facts are these: Ben Butler received the nomination at the hands of a handful of so-called anti-monopolists, greenbackers, and liberal-laguers." But these are not the same as the labor organizations. There are at least five hundred thousand members of such organizations in the country. There are 20,000 of them here in Chicago--trades assemblies, knights of labor, socialists, and greenback-labor men. None of these organizations want Butler, nor have they nominated him. The truth is that all such labor associations exist only for the purpose of raising a standard of wages, of regulating strikes and apprenticeships, and for all other measures tending to the advancement of the labor interests. Their aims are not political, but social ones. The members belong to either of the two great parties--are either democrats or republicans. These organizations are debating societies as well, in which the merits of the various candidates of their parties and platforms may be discussed once in a while. But these are merely social issues, and to my knowledge no concerted action has been taken--nor is it in contemplation--for the endorsement of Ben Butler or of any other candidate. The members are at full liberty to pick out for themselves a candidate to their liking. "How is it one hears so much of the greenback-labor party, then?" "Oh, that is due to the fact that this party used to play a big game once--in 1876 and in 1880. But they have no party organization now, except in a few states, like Michigan and Iowa. And even in those states they are only a few backers, but not the labor organizations. Papers like the Chicago Tribune, which try to make it appear that the labor organizations have declared in favor of Butler, and are doing their best to break up the democratic party--such papers simply misstate the facts in a palpable manner. There is no Butler movement in the ranks among the laboring men that I know of."

WESTERN NEWS.

DAKOTA. The catholic population of Dakota is estimated at 25,000. There have been 283 harvesters sold at Groton this summer. Rapid City's valuation by the assessor for 1884, is \$396,319.50. Yankton expects 10,000 visitors to the soldiers reunion next month. Eight thousand railroad ties are being unloaded at Marion Junction. The corner stone for a catholic church at Yankton was laid on the 3d inst. The corn crop of Union county, this year, will reach nearly 4,000,000 bushels. The total assessed valuation of the real and personal property of Beadle is \$1,905,062.45. It is estimated that 50,000 bushels of flax will be marketed at Marion Junction the coming fall and winter. There are fourteen candidates for congress already on the track, with several border counties to hear from. The contractors are putting down 1,200 feet of watermain a day in Sioux Falls, and will complete their job by the 25th inst. Ground has been secured for a new school-house, building 30 ft. This will be the fourth large public brick school-house in Sioux Falls. The chances are that the Scandinavian theological college, for the location of which in Sioux Falls, the citizens offered a bonus of \$10,000, will go to another town. The building of the Episcopal college at Sioux Falls, will be commenced at an early day. The first improvement will be 62x125 on the ground and will cost \$25,000. Coddington county contains 462,547.71 acres of land and only 176,224.81 acres were assessed this year. The rest, 246,322.90 is railroad land, and land on which final proof has not been made. The coal bore on the Jencks farm near Yankton has struck a thirteen foot vein of bituminous coal. The news of the big find caused much excitement in Sioux Falls. One hundred and twelve postoffice were established in Dakota during the first six months of 1884--sixty-six in south Dakota, and the same number in north Dakota. Joe Hunt, a well known bank sharp, is caged in the hills. He confiscated the First National bank of Rapid City out of \$6,000 on a forged draft, but the steal was discovered in time to capture Joe and run him in.

INDIANA PROHIBITIONISTS.

INDIANAPOLIS, August 13--A meeting of the executive committee of the prohibition state central committee met here to-day and decided to put an electoral ticket in the race. The ticket is not yet named. The members of the party will not be pledged to its support during the electoral campaign, and such prohibitionists as so desire to vote for St. John.

A Veteran Dead.

ROCK ISLAND, Ill., August 12--Major General Hoffman died here to-day. He has been an invalid for a number of years. He served in the Mexican war and the war of the rebellion on the Union side, and on the frontier.

Three Children Cremated.

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Black-Gold Carries the Primaries.

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Cuticura.

Miracles of Healing Unparalleled in Medical History. 'I have been afflicted for twenty years with an obstinate skin disease, known as Eczema, Psoriasis, and others, spreading over my scalp, and in spite of all I could do, with the help of the most skillful doctors, it slowly but surely extended until a year ago this winter it covered my entire person to form a very scaly crust. This last three years I have been unable to do any labor, and suffer miserably all the time. Every morning there would be nearly a quartful of scales taken from the soles of my feet, some of them half as large as the envelope containing this letter. In the latter part of winter, my skin commenced cracking open. I tried everything almost, that could be thought of without any relief. The 1st of June I started West, in hopes I could reach the Hot Springs, reached Detroit and was so low I thought I should have to go to the hospital, but finally got as far as Lansing, Mich., where I had a sister living. One Dr. -- treated me about two weeks, but did me no good. All thought had been given up, when I was advised to try Cuticura. I bought a box of Cuticura and used it as directed. I was surprised to find that I had a better feeling than I had for many weeks. I cracked through the skin all over my back across my ribs, hands, limbs, feet, body swollen, sore, and discharges of blood and pus, hair dead, dry, and lifeless as old straw. O, my God! how did I suffer! My sister had a small part of a box of Cuticura in the house. She wouldn't give it up, said, "I will try Cuticura." She was afraid of a sore throat and arm. Eureka! there was relief! stopped the terrible burning sensation from the world. My immediate relief was followed by a cure. I used Cuticura as a soap. I commenced by taking one tablespoonful of Cuticura three times a day, and used Cuticura as a bath once a day, water about blood hot, used Cuticura as a freckle remover, and used Cuticura as a freckle remover from time to time, and my skin is smooth as this sheet of paper. HIRAM E. CARPENTER, Henderson, Jefferson County, N. Y. "Born to before me this nineteenth day of January, 1880. "A. M. LEFFINGWELL, Justice of the Peace."

as well as does and as handsome as pictures. The promoters are three-quarter bloods. Judge Brewer, of the United States court, at Denver, on the 28th, rendered a decision against the Maxwell Land and Cattle company cutting down the land claims 500,000 acres, on the ground that the surveyor made this slight mistake in marking the company's lines. Recent statistics have been compiled in regard to the wheat crop of Colorado, which is now being threshed, which shows some 5 per cent increase thereof over any former year. This per centage of increase, thus far shown, for the state a yield of about 2,100,000 bushels. Of this total Colorado will consume some 1,500,000. Bill Chittenden, a man of forty-five, and a resident of Cheyenne, Wyo., admires and admires the fraternity of newspaper reporters, he saved the fraternity the labor of writing up the sensation in all its thrilling details by doing the job himself even to returning headings, before the gun went off. Such consideration for the faithful on earth will lessen the tolls at Peter's gate.

WYOMING.

The territorial treasury is flush with \$27,000. The cost of furnishing the Presbyterian church at Cheyenne was \$6000. It is reported that the Graffo lands are to be sold to a London syndicate for a fancy price. The brotherhood of locomotive engineers, with headquarters at Cheyenne, has thirty-five members. Five hundred coolies are employed in the U. P. mines at Rock Springs. The daily output in summer averages 1500 tons per day. The winter shipments average about 3,000 tons daily. The Cheyenne coal is sold at 80 cents per ton for mining, earning therefor for their masters from \$20 to \$25 per month each. Coal is delivered to consumers there at \$2 per ton.

MONTANA.

The town of Belnap, one of the mushroom towns of the Coeur d'Alene stampede, was wiped out by existence by fire, recently. The value of the silver and copper produced at Butte this year according to the present rate of production will be \$15,000,000 and of the territory \$20,000,000.

It is reported that the Northern Pacific company are discharging their section hands and other laborers along the line and supplying their places with Chinamen, whom they procure for 35 cents per day.

Foot-pads, thieves and burglars have become so numerous in Helena that the Herald of that place calls for the revival of the vigilantes, and says: Eternal vigilance and plenty of rope will accomplish a good deal at the hands of the law.

Prospecting in Dear Gulch has resulted in the discovery of some rich gold bearing quartz. The lead is large and well defined, some of the specimens show free gold others, though not showing gold to the naked eye, proved upon being pulverized and washed, to be very rich in the yellow dust.

The washouts caused by recent floods on the Oregon Short line have been repaired and the road is again in first class condition. John Sharp & Sons, of Salt Lake City, are grazing 8,000 sheep on Grouse creek. The wool clip this year amounted to over 50,000 pounds.

The lava beds between Shoshone and the Snake river are on fire, and have been burning for several days. Thousands upon thousands of acres are already denuded of sagebrush and grass.

Suing His Old Employers. CINCINNATI, August 12--Colonel John C. Underwood, formerly manager of the News-Journal, has entered suit in the United States court at Cincinnati against James Scripps, Ed W. Scripps, and M. A. McCrae for \$50,000 for alleged libel printed August 2, in the Evening Post of Cincinnati, charging Underwood with acting dishonestly toward the stockholders of the News-Journal. Underwood's attorneys are William M. Ramsey, Judge J. B. Foster, Lawrence Maxwell, Speaker John G. Carlisle.

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