

THE OMAHA BEE

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THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL-SHIP.

Col. A. H. Neidig, chief secretary of the late republican convention, declares as untrue the statement that has been made concerning the counting out of Hon. Frank Ransom, candidate for attorney-general. Mr. Neidig declares that after fifteen minutes of uncontrollable disorder a new ballot was taken with great deliberation and care, and the vote of each county was repeated by Mr. Neidig slowly and in a tone of voice that all could hear. Col. Neidig said that the tally-sheet, up to the time of the new roll-call, shows that Mr. Leese led Mr. Ransom and not the opposite.

Now, we are not aware that anybody, least of all the Bee, would impute unfairness or fraud to Col. Neidig. All who were present at the convention will accord to him the honor of being the best chief secretary that has ever served in any convention in Nebraska. But Col. Neidig did not keep the tally sheets nor does he know whether the candidates were properly credited with the vote given. He stood in the stage, through the entire balloting, by the side of the chairman, calling back each vote as it was announced by the respective counties. The tally sheets, if I remember right, were kept by the notorious "Gad" Brad Slaughter, who is an adept at the business of counting out candidates, and was, two years ago, instrumental in defeating William B. White, the choice of the convention for treasurer, and counting in Loran Clark, who, in turn, was defeated at the polls by the people. At that convention Frank Ransom was fairly nominated but was counted out amid "uncontrollable disorder" and the present attorney-general, Powers, declared the nominee. Without the slightest imputation upon Col. Neidig, we reiterate what has been stated to us by parties who did keep the tally, that Frank Ransom was fairly nominated before the last roll call was ordered. In both instances the outrage perpetrated through the fraudulent count affects the people of Nebraska a great deal more than it does Mr. Ransom. The present attorney-general, who ranks among the weakest members of the bar, has been summarily retired by the party after he had been shown to be an accomplice of Glenn Kendall in the school land swindles, which never could have been perpetrated without his co-operation, interpreting the law regulating the leasing of school lands. In view of that fact in behoof the republican party to nominate as a successor to Isaac Powers a lawyer of acknowledged ability and unimpeachable integrity. Had they nominated General Dilworth no valid objection could have been raised by the friends of Mr. Ransom, whose eminent fitness for the position no one will dispute. But when they nominated Mr. Leese, who is not even a third-rate lawyer, and has no business in the supreme or even in the district court, they perpetrated an outrage on the people and insulted the intelligence of the republican masses. Mr. Leese is, for all we know, an upright man, but what would his opinion as attorney-general be worth to the legislature or any state officer on any constitutional question or other grave matter?

The attorney-generalship is not created as a soft berth for an inexperienced lawyer to acquire an education and draw a salary, but it is designed specially for men of eminent legal ability whose opinions will carry weight and respect with them, and who can successfully represent the state not only in our state courts but even in the United States courts, when the interests of the state are involved. The counting out of Mr. Ransom and the counting in of Mr. Leese is therefore not only a great personal wrong but a matter of grave concern to the people of this state. The republican party has no right to ask the people to elect a man to the office of attorney-general who is incapable of performing the duties, and it seems to us even at this late date that Mr. Leese should be induced or requested to withdraw.

INSURANCE AND INCENDIARISM.

There is a lamentable lack of interest manifested by Omaha insurance men in the detection, punishment and prevention of incendiarism. The manifest duty of every insurance agent is to use due diligence and vigilance in bringing to justice parties who set fire to buildings either for the sake of getting the insurance money or from motives of malice and revenge. The ordinary fire risks incurred by insurance companies from accidental fires perhaps do not comprise more than three-fourths of the losses, and if the real causes of all the fires could be ascertained we believe that fully one-half would have to be charged up to incendiarism.

Within the past year a number of fires have occurred in Omaha that have been deliberately set by fire-finders or insurance swindlers. Of these the fire in the Bee office was beyond a shadow of a doubt the work of malicious fire-bugs. Ever since that fire the proprietors of this paper, knowing and believing that the persons who set that fire were printers and former employees, have exerted every effort to bring these parties to justice. With the single exception of Charles Kaufmann, who inspected the premises within an hour after the fire, the local agents in Omaha have exhibited supreme indifference. They know that two persons were arrested at the instance of the Bee publishers, and were informed that detectives were employed who felt confident of making a strong case of circumstantial evidence to

convict the parties, but they did not lift their hand in any direction to assist in the prosecution. True, the insurance adjuster from Chicago was on the ground to appraise the damage, and the various companies interested have met their respective obligations. But it seems to us that this community has a right to expect something more from insurance agents than the mere payment of losses, and the insurance companies are certainly deeply interested in having agents at Omaha and every other city who exhibit reasonable activity and zeal in protecting the stockholders from losses by incendiarism. We have no personal grievance in this case excepting so far as relates to the conduct of Augustus Weiss, who as justice of the peace, happened to occupy the place of police judge during Judge Bencke's illness.

Justice Weiss may be a good man when he is sober, which is very seldom, but he is as unfit to maintain the relations which he holds to the insurance companies as he is to occupy the position of justice of the peace or judge of the police court. It was his sworn and manifest duty to bind over and hold for trial the parties charged with the firing of the Bee office if there was enough testimony to show that the crime of arson had been committed and the persons charged with this heinous offense had motives and opportunity for such a crime, and that there was reasonable ground for believing they had committed that offense. On the trial of this case it was shown that these parties had made threats and had for months carried on what they called "boy-cotting" the Bee. It was shown that Hines, the principal, was a sort of a Giteau and had been one of the chief actors in this boy-cotting business. It was proven by competent testimony, and by the admission of Watson, his pal, that when Watson was taken to jail, he said he was glad to see him because he was afraid he would give them away. It was shown by the fire department chief and his assistant that the fire was the work of incendiaries, and an unimpeachable witness, William Strahl, night fireman at Strang's building, which stands adjoining the Bee office, fully identified Hines and Watson as the parties seen prowling near the entrance of the Bee building, at a little after four in the morning previous to the fire, that the door leading into the Bee building was forced open and the parties disappeared. The only evidence produced to clear Hines and Watson was a dozen printers who swore that the accused had left the Herald printing house about 4:05 or 4:10 a. m., and that they were seen by two employees of the Republican at Higgins' saloon from twenty minutes to half an hour later. Within those twenty or thirty minutes they had ample time to go from the Herald building to the Bee office, set the fire and walk up Douglas street to Higgins' saloon. According to Night Fireman Strahl, who fully identified them, they did go there, and the only testimony offered to gainay that was from a printer and pal of Hines and Watson, who swore that he was sitting outside the building opposite the Bee office from 4:35 a. m. to the time of the fire and did not see anybody across the street.

"The man who did not see a crime committed can never offset the positive testimony of a credible witness who did see it. But Justice Weiss was more anxious to pander to the mob than to protect society and the insurance companies against fire fiends. Mr. Weiss is anxious to be re-elected justice of the peace in the Third ward, where the tramps, vagrants and outlaws are known to hold the balance of power and this is why he disgraced the bench and betrayed his own trust by turning loose a couple of men who are at best tramps who can walk out of town at any moment. One of these men testified that he had been in jail several times in New York and elsewhere, and Hines has got so low that he is capable of most anything, especially when struggling with the jim-jams.

Had the insurance agents of Omaha shown as much interest in this preliminary examination as the associates of Hines and Watson, it is barely possible that Justice Weiss would have sent the case to the grand jury for further examination, and bound the parties over. At any rate it is to be hoped that our local insurance agents hereafter will not allow their apathy to overcome their duty to the public and to the companies whom they represent.

As usual the Bee doesn't like the state ticket, but as usual the state ticket will get there by a very large majority.—Fremont Tribune.

"As usual" probably means since the railroads have packed the conventions and nominated the candidates. The Bee supported every state ticket up to and including 1880. By the way, how large was the majority given to the state ticket two years ago, when the candidate for treasurer was defeated by 4,000 and the governor only received 43,495 votes out of 89,068, and Roggen, who ran away ahead of his ticket, only polled 462 more than a majority? Albinus Nance, in 1880, was elected governor by 32,168 majority, when the aggregate vote was only 87,345. It would seem that times have changed.

THE OMAHA REPUBLICAN HAS DELIBERATELY AND MALICIOUSLY GARBLED THE TESTIMONY TAKEN DURING THE EXAMINATION OF HINES AND WATSON, WHO WERE CHARGED WITH SETTING THE BEE OFFICE ON FIRE. IT TOOK PARTICULAR PAINS TO FALSIFY THE TESTIMONY OF THE PRINCIPAL WITNESSES, WHO SAW BOTH THESE MEN PROWLING NEAR THE BEE OFFICE JUST BEFORE DAYLIGHT ON THE MORNING OF THE FIRE, AND WHO FULLY IDENTIFIED THEM AS THE PARTIES WHO SET THE FIRE.

THE GRAND ARMY RE-UNION, WHICH TAKES PLACE THIS WEEK AT FREMONT, PROMISES TO BE MORE LARGELY ATTENDED AND A MORE BRILLIANT SUCCESS THAN ANY RE-UNION EVER HELD IN THE STATE. NEBRASKA IS PRE-EMINENTLY A SOLDIER STATE, AND THE VETERANS AND THEIR FRIENDS WILL BE WARMLY RECEIVED AND CORDIALLY ENTERTAINED BY THE HOSPITABLE PEOPLE OF FREMONT, WHICH IS ONE OF THE PRETTIEST TOWNS IN NEBRASKA.

JUST AT THE PRESENT THERE IS MORE OF A DEMAND FOR THE VOTES OF THE WORKINGMAN THAN THERE IS FOR THEIR LABOR.

CITY WALKS AND TALKS.

A correspondent writes to the Bee's Man About Town charging him with an appreciation of the motive of offering prizes for the exhibition of babies at the Nebraska state fair. Our correspondent says that "the object is certainly a worthy one, as it will stimulate one of the most essential industries of this wonderful, fertile state." "It strikes us," says the writer of the communication, "that the Bee is mistaken when it affirms that apples are not a fit prize for the handsomest baby girl. You forget that apples were the first prize that our first mother hankerered after in the garden of Eden, although the result of eating it was not wholly satisfactory to the family."

"When I was in St. Louis the other day," remarked an old-time telegrapher, "I was considerably puzzled when I heard the newboys yelling out, 'Here's your Evening Chronicle and Peck's Sun, both for five cents, and 'Evening Chronicle and a fan for five cents.' Upon inquiry I learned that these fellows were no good in St. Louis, and the Chronicle, which is a penny sheet, is obliged to be sold on the streets in connection with other papers or articles of various kinds."

"While I was in the Wells-Fargo express office, the other day," said a business man, "a Chinaman, who has been a laundryman in Omaha for a few years, came in with a package of gold. It contained \$1,000 in twenty-dollar gold pieces, which he wanted to send by express to China. The charge was \$5.75, which he thought was a little too much, and failing to get a reduced rate, he concluded not to send the money. So he went out with his gold, and returned it to his hiding place. Only a few days before this, I was sent a smaller amount home to China. This shows the thrift of John Chinaman, who accumulates dollars where a white man could not lay up cents. The Chinese are no good for this country. The Chinese must go."

"Nearly everybody in Nebraska knows, or ought to know, the May brothers, of Fremont," remarked a prominent citizen of Omaha. "There is not a jollier set of boys nor a better business firm in Nebraska than they are. They are among the most prosperous merchants in the state, and have built up a wholesale business in Fremont equal to that of almost any house in Omaha. Lewis is the 'hail fellow, well met' of the brothers, and what he doesn't know about Shakespeare, ichthyology, the necessities of life, as well as the luxuries, isn't worth knowing. The boys have issued an invitation to their many friends, who may attend the Grand Army reunion at Fremont, to be present at a social reunion in their store on next Thursday evening. With a view of contributing to the pleasure of the occasion they have arranged an informal reception, and will be specially at home on that evening. And don't you forget it, I shall be there."

"After being in St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joe, and Leavenworth, I am better satisfied with Omaha than ever said a prominent business man who recently visited those cities. 'St. Louis is a slow going town with narrow streets, poor pavements, and dingy looking buildings. The macadam and wooden pavements are full of holes and ruts which are filled with mud. As to business, Chicago does more business on Sunday than St. Louis does the rest of the week. Talk about mud, why St. Louis, with her pavements, is nearly as bad as Omaha was before they put down her pavements. I stopped over a few hours in Kansas City on my way home. It is a live town, but I wouldn't want to live there. Talk about hills in Omaha! Why, Kansas City can discount her and give her 95 points. I saw a number of houses that were elevated that they had to be reached by from forty to sixty steps. Kansas City is ahead of us in population and in commerce, but in the long run Omaha will beat her. Omaha, with her broad business streets and her superior pavements and other public improvements has made a good start towards being a large and beautiful city."

"When Buffalo Bill was out in Denver a year ago last spring," said a Denver man, "he was the guest of General D. J.

Cook, the detective. On Decoration day General Cook was the chief marshal, and after the ceremonies were over he and Bill went out to the fair grounds to witness an exhibition drill. Reaching the grounds they found that an admission fee was being charged, and feeling in pretty good humor about that time of day, they told the gate-keeper to throw the gates open to everybody, and present the bill to them. This was done, and a bill of \$200 was afterwards presented to General Cook, who refused to pay it. Suit was then brought against him and Bill, who had previously offered to pay half the bill, and settle the matter, but Cook would not allow this as Bill was his guest. The other day final judgment was rendered against Cook for \$175."

LITERARY NOTES.

Mrs. Hurd's Niece. By Ella Farnam. The Hurd Folk's Library. Illustrated. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. Price 25 cents. This fascinating story, one of the best from the author's practiced pen, will find a multitude of earnest and appreciative readers. It draws a sharp contrast between genuine, practical religion and its fashionable substitute, and shows the hollowness of a life not based upon sound principle. The character of Lois Gladstone is clearly and effectively drawn, and the story of her experiences in the Hurd household, with the changes brought about in it through her quiet but persistent influence, is told with skill and feeling. There is hardly a page without its suggestive passage, and we know of few books which contain so much that is really helpful to young girls placed in positions where self-control, moral courage and self-sacrifice are required.

James H. Earle, (Boston), the publisher of the famous "From Log Cabin to White House," which has proved by far the most popular Life of Garfield, and has outlasted all others, issues as a companion volume, and in the same superb style, "Pine to Potomac," the Life of James G. Blaine, Garfield's friend and Premier. The author was with Mr. Blaine the day after his nomination, and in his hospitable mansion day after day for nearly a month since, has been gathering material to make the volume complete, fresh and complete, a book for the family and voter. It is a large 12 mo. of over 400 pages, with a steel portrait of Mr. Blaine, made expressly for the work, and other illustrations.

Mrs. J. W. Davis, whose paper on "Fair Verona" in a late number of The Manhattan was so entertaining, has written for the September Manhattan an article on the "Hungarian Capitals," Presburg and Budapest, which are profusely illustrated.

The Countess of Monte-Cristo, companion to Alexander Dumas' celebrated novel of "The Count of Monte-Cristo," is fully equal to that world-renowned novel, is in press and will be published immediately by T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia. It is a work of very extraordinary power, fascination and interest, while it is great in plot, incidents and characters. At the very commencement of the novel, the Count of Monte-Cristo, the wife of Monte-Cristo, Haydee, and the son of Monte-Cristo, Esperanto, take part in a world scene in which Mercedes, Albert de Morcerf and the Countess Monte-Cristo also participate. Of course the Countess of Monte-Cristo is the central figure, and on her touching trials, strange deeds and astonishing exploits the entire novel hinges. The Countess of Monte-Cristo is, in short, a veritable creation without a parallel in fiction, and the book is so highly wrought and interesting that it is impossible to skip a single line. It will find a legion of readers, for everybody that has read the "Countess of Monte-Cristo," and its popularity is certain to be vast and enduring.

STATE JOTTINGS.

Grand Island has organized an electric company. Valentine has inflated her population to 3,000. Schleyer boasts of shipping hay and butter-milk to Omaha. Grasshoppers are stripping leaves off the shade trees at Lincoln. They simply hasten the fall. The First National Bank has been organized at Sutton. Carpenter Cornelius committed suicide at Kearney last Sunday. He lived by the bottle and died by the bottle. At Duchesne last week an eight year old girl, named Charvat, expiated a fire with kerosene and was burned to death. The removal of the old Congregational church building for a better one, has been commenced at Fremont. The democrats of Plattsmouth postponed the opening of the campaign in Cass county till after the state ticket is nominated. An Omaha lady, a passenger on a B. & M. train, is accused of the strange pastime of milking a field of wheat sheeps for a flock of sheep. Lincoln has invested \$1000 in a new fangled machine called a "mud harvester." It opens up a new era in grading methods. A man with money and a willingness to do good, offers to build and operate a street railway in Red Cloud from the depot to the center of the town for a bonus of \$1,000. The fourteen year old son of John Warrick, of Cuming City, Washington county, fell backward out of a carriage, striking his head, and suffering concussion of the brain and death. Hedges & Son's foundry at Lincoln was totally destroyed by fire on the 26th. The fire also damaged the lumber yard of Newcomb, Munson & Co., to the extent of \$1,000. Ten days ago a farmer in Greeley county while hauling in oats drove his loaded wagon over his little girl, causing her immediate death. As a result the father is a raving maniac. A mortgage for ten million dollars has just been recorded in the county clerk's office in Holt county. It is from the Nebraska Central Railroad company to the Farmers Loan and Trust company, of New York. There is nothing of the kind in sight but this mortgage.

A man named Kane, who worked on the farm of Wm. Hilgencamp in Washington county, was the life out of himself for some unknown reason, last week. Before the body was discovered he had eaten nearly all the flesh of the loaves. Minden keeps up her reputation as a shooting town. Bill Price accused Jerry Volney of stealing a rooster from the other day, and George resented the insult by plowing a dangerous furrow in Bill's forehead. George promptly skipped the country. At Kearney, on the 22nd, Cassius Cornelius, proprietor of the city hotel, died from the effects of a poison taken the previous evening. The cause of the suicide is supposed to have been business troubles. He was a Frenchman, by birth, sixty-two years of age, and leaves a large family in comfortable circumstances. The Springfield Monitor reports the finding of petrified walnuts in the Boone quarry in

Cass county. The specimen is a very perfect walnut, and was found under a layer of rock three and a half feet thick, clearly proving that the walnuts had been deposited there before the formation of those rocks, hundreds and probably thousands of years ago.

An iron truss bridge, two miles from West Point, gave way the other day under the weight of a steam engine. The engine was on the bridge of Plum creek, and landed upside down, only the wheels being exposed above the surface of the water. W. J. Neigh, engineer, had the engine of about twenty feet, but was not seriously hurt.

The Norfolk Journal sums up the railroad outlook for the northwest as follows: "Not only is the competition keen in the district of the Black Hills and the Central Pacific, but it is now thought that the Creighton branch will be pushed to the northwestern end of the St. Paul southwestward. The Vanderbilt interest will put an immense amount of money into railroading in Nebraska during the next several years, and Norfolk has been selected as the central point for all northwestern operations west of the Missouri river."

Mrs. Samantha A. Battles manages a farm in Webster county and manages to live her own way, and is a very independent ruler. Recently a neighbor named Burr attempted to pull down a portion of her fence. She protested but Burr paid no attention to her. Mrs. Battles then took a shovel and went to the side of the head with a shovel. In the second round she knocked him silly by tearing a hole at the base of his brain. This ended the matter, but the church is a wonder of bonds to appear for trial at the district court.

The benefits of the Omaha stock yards are already felt west of the city. The Schuyler says: "The laymen inform us that they are unable to supply the demand for meat here at Omaha. Since the location of the extensive stock yards at Omaha, it requires six cars of hauled hay daily to keep up the supply, and it seems the Platte valley is depending upon that amount, and often more than otherwise it falls short. This is but one instance of the benefits of these great stock yards to the country immediately west of Omaha."

Irish Thompson, a gallous specimen of the genus thief, was recently juggled at Grand Island for robbery. There was no positive proof against him, and he was finally released to give himself away. Failing to find the stolen articles or coaxing Thompson into divulging the secret, sheriff Cannon and his deputy hit upon the plan of scattering him into acknowledging the crime. They by a series of nightly ghost-vaults, dragging chains, beating tin plates and slowly dragging their slow length along the rough hallway of the jail accompanied by the most unearthly groans and shrieks, now of a woman, in the company of death and the depths of the damned. Frightened out of bed Thompson managed to pass the first night cowering in a corner and praying the second night he would be hanged. He became half crazy, moaning and trembling like a "palmy." He called the sheriff to him and told him where the stolen articles were, and involved him in the same ghostly scene from the corridor. The ghosts were banished and Thompson now sleeps in peace.

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