

THE OMAHA BEE

Omaha Office, No. 916 Farnam St. Council Bluffs Office, No. 7 Pearl St. Street, Near Broadway.

New York Office, Room 65 Tribune Building.

Published every morning, except Sundays. The only Monday evening daily.

TERMS IN ADVANCE. One Year, \$10.00; Three Months, \$3.00; Six Months, \$5.00; One Month, \$1.00.

For Week, 25 Cents.

THE WEEKLY BEE, PUBLISHED BY FRIDAY, WEDNESDAY.

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For Week, 25 Cents.

AMERICAN NEWS COMPANY, Sole Agents, New York, N. Y.

ADVERTISEMENTS. A communication relating to News and Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editors of The Bee.

REPRINTS. All Reprint Letters and Remittances should be addressed to THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, OMAHA, NEBR.

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., PROPRIETORS.

A. H. Fitch, Manager, Daily Circulation, 17, O. Box, 488 Omaha, Neb.

MR. THURSTON is still on his travels, but the railroads are out of politics.

A friend of Mr. Dorsey informs us that John M. Thurston does not travel as his escort. We are glad of it.

The next time the Lincoln Journal and the Omaha Republican want to generalize the Bee about its position on Governor Dawes, they will know better. Don't monkey with a buzz-saw.

STICKEL may be a good man at a school meeting, but in congress he would wander in a maze.—Omaha Republican.

Stickel will wander there all the same. But where was Laird wandering around most of the time when congress was in session? Was he wandering in a maze or taking in the sights of Washington?

WILL THE BEE or the Herald inform us if it be true that Charles H. Brown is an open and avowed woman suffragist?—Omaha Republican.

THE BEE has nothing to conceal in this campaign. Mr. Brown was in favor of woman suffrage two years ago, when he was elected to the state senate by a majority of about 2,000 in a county that gave over 3,000 majority against woman suffrage. That issue is not up at present, but if it were, the Republican, which has been a warm supporter of woman suffrage, is the last paper that ought to find fault with Mr. Brown. But where was Mr. Weaver about that time? Ask Clara Bewick Colby. She will probably enlighten you concerning Mr. Weaver's methods.

THE hue and cry raised in certain quarters against what the chronic grumblers and moss-backs call "the barbarous destruction" of shade trees, shrubbery, and lawns, proceeds from sheer ignorance, malice, and lack of common sense. On the one hand we have an idiotic self-styled "journalist," who expects by raising the wind to enlarge the meagre subscription list of the Republican, and on the other hand a set of sneaks who want to assail the city engineer under the cloak of indignant taxpayers, when as a matter of fact most of them do not own a foot of property in Omaha. Every well informed person knows that the city engineer does not establish grades nor change grades. He simply draws profiles, under the direction of the council. As a rule the council decides how much cutting or filling there is to be upon the streets to be improved, and the engineer supervises the work laid out for him. This very often conflicts with his recommendations, but in Omaha as in all other cities the engineer carries out the orders of the city council. Omaha was originally laid out with streets 100 feet wide, and for the most part the original town site was a treeless prairie. More than twenty years ago property owners were granted the right to fence in fourteen feet of the street on condition that they would plant shade trees within the enclosure. The original scheme was to allow this extension during a period of eight or ten years, by which time it was expected the trees would require no further protection. Many of the property owners took it in their heads to annex the fourteen feet to their lots because the streets were wide enough anyway. They did not content themselves with tree-planting, but they used this extra ground for lawns and shrubbery. Many of them built their houses in the street, or allowed their porches to project on the sidewalk. Some lots were fenced fourteen feet into the street, and still others only twelve, and still others only ten. Quite a number had their fences on the street line. The trees planted to shade the streets were in irregular lines, and had become an obstruction to travel. Projecting limbs and trees in the middle of the sidewalks made it dangerous for people in dark and stormy nights to use the walks. It became necessary for the public convenience and safety to remove all obstructions, whether they were trees, shrubs, or lawns. This may appear barbarous for the time being, but it will in the end make Omaha a beautiful city. Shade trees planted now on the proper line, and to the established grade, will in a few years replace those that have been removed. We can't make fish of one and flesh of another. If our streets are to be fit for travel they must be uniform. In some cases the grading may be premature and excessive, but under the law no tax can be collected unless the street is graded to the full width. Whatever inconvenience may arise is only temporary. If Omaha is to be a city in fact as well as in name we must have uniform sidewalks and passable streets.

GOVERNOR DAWES AND THE SCHOOL LAND FRAUD.

Van Wyck and Roswater have retired to their holes and are trying to pull them in after them, after scattering far and wide their false charges against Gov. Dawes and other members of the board of educational lands and funds. However, the first named statesman has the pleasure of knowing that he has supplied the democratic press with all the ammunition they expect to use against the state ticket.—Lincoln Journal.

We have no defense to make for Senator Van Wyck. He is able to take care of himself and will undoubtedly explain exactly what he does think about Governor Dawes and the board of public lands. Roswater and THE BEE have not one word to retract about the infamies perpetrated by Glenn Kendall and his associates in the leasing of the school lands. Now that the defenders of this villiany at the head of whom are the Lincoln Journal and the Omaha Republican, have seen fit to arraign this paper and its editor for opposing the rascally operations of the school land ring, we propose to say just what we do think of Governor Dawes, and the flimsy apologies that have been made for him.

Governor Dawes all the way through has shown himself to be an imbecile, utterly unfit to be the chief executive of a great commonwealth and if his opponent, J. Sterling Morton, was not a thoroughbred monopolist and lobbyist for monopolies, we should not hesitate to ask every republican to vote for him. When Glenn Kendall was nominated for commissioner four years ago we made remonstrance against that choice, and predicted that his administration of the land department would foster land swindles. Two years ago the BEE called attention to the peculiar resolution which was injected into the republican platform by Charles H. Gero, who has been a defender and silent partner of public thieves and jobbers ever since we have known him. That resolution commended Glenn Kendall's board in its efforts to get a revenue from the leasing of the public school lands. Gero was simply the pliant tool of the school land ring, which was then already organized "for business" and operating in various counties all over the state. As good a republican as Hon. Leander Gerard, of Columbus called our attention to this fraudulent scheme, and at hinstance we made an exposure of the whole manner and method pursued by Kendall and other land sharks.

When Grimes introduced the amended school law, which Kendall & Co., now pronounce so very defective he publicly announced that he was acting at the request of the land commissioner, under whose supervision the bill was prepared. Now Glen Kendall has been in office two years, and he undoubtedly understood that the practical effect of this law would be just what it had been, and just what he and his associates intended it to be. The tabulated apology for the board of public lands may deceive some people, but those who take time and trouble to examine it will agree with us that it does not in any way exonerate the board. First and foremost it is a statement made by parties who are interested in covering up the rascalities of the land office. Their figures must, at best be taken with great deal of allowance, in view of the fact that Kendall on a salary of \$1,800, four years has accumulated a fortune of \$400,000, and clerks in his office are reputed to have made from \$5,000 to \$20,000 each in school land speculation. According to the tabular statement of the board he has leased over 800,000 acres of school land. It is notorious that large blocks of this land were leased at a mere song, in some cases less than the taxes, to land speculators at Lincoln. The Lincoln Journal to day contains the following advertisement:

FOR SALE OR TRADE.—25 year school land leases on some of the best farming and stock lands in the Republican, Platte or Elk-horn valleys for sale at low rates. Will exchange for real estate also. For particulars and location of land address C. L. Baum, Lincoln, Neb.

How did this man acquire these school lands in the Republican, Platte and Elk-horn valleys? It was by connivance with Glenn Kendall, and at least a majority of the board, who gave him and other speculators inside of the ring, the option of one year on the payment of a mere trifle to hold these lands for a bonus, and thus robbed the state, while the settlers, who are taking these leases second-hand, are led by the land sharks. We could cite names of scores of hard-working farmers who have thus paid tribute to Kendall & Co.'s ring, under the very nose of the governor.

Why did not Governor Dawes and the board show the same business tact in displaying of the school lands that is displayed by Mr. Baum, Mr. Sheldon, and other inside members of the ring? They advertised their lands extensively, inviting bids, but Governor Dawes allowed the board to lease over 800,000 acres of lands without letting anybody but the select few know anything about it. We do not propose to put the worst construction upon such a record. We simply ask in all candor why did Governor Dawes never interpose his authority to prevent the palpable theft of school lands by the option system? We call it theft, because it is no better than stealing to lease out lands for twenty-five years at 5 per cent. on an appraisal of 50 cents to \$1.50 per acre. Glenn Kendall and his clerks, who prepared that tabulated statement, want us to believe that the lands were leased at an average of \$4.80 per acre. But they convict themselves of gross falsehood by their own figures.

The way they figure out \$4.80 for leased lands is by aggregating all the sold land with the leased lands. As no school lands can be sold for less than \$7.00 per acre, and most of the sold lands are located in the older sections of the state

and were disposed of years ago to the highest bidder by the county treasurers, it is easy to roll up an average of \$4.80 per acre. In other words, by combining the appraisal of the 400,000 acres of lands sold with the 800,000 acres of leased lands they get their high estimate. Do they imagine they can deceive the people with such sham exhibits?

Another very lame apology for the school land frauds is made by the claim that the lands will be re-appraised every five years. There never has been a re-appraisal of school lands and Glenn Kendall and Governor Dawes both admitted before the state central committee that there could be no re-appraisal because there is no appropriation to pay the appraisers. Why was there no appropriation? Did not Glenn Kendall and the board know that such an appropriation was necessary to enable the state to realize interest on its school lands, according to their increased value? Why did not Governor Dawes or the board ask the last legislature to make an appropriation? Governor Dawes will probably excuse himself on the ground that he was fresh and did not know what was wanted, and his associates on the board evidently were not anxious to get such an appropriation.

The less said about the Keith county land frauds the better. The governor voted no, and he must have been aware that there was something wrong. Why did he take no action until after the citizens had invoked the courts for protection? If the Keith county frauds were the only school land frauds, we might condone the offense, but it must be patent to every intelligent observer that the methods of the board were not such as the honest guardians of a great public trust should pursue. The best thing that could be said for Governor Dawes under the circumstances is, that he lacked executive ability and backbone to break up the rotten system under which 800,000 acres of school lands have been leased away for twenty-five years at nominal figures. The fool friends of Governor Dawes have been hammering away from day to day at THE BEE when it was disposed to give other issues in the campaign the preference. They have goaded us on to tell the people of Nebraska what we think of Governor Dawes and the board, and we have the courage and candor to tell the truth, let the consequences be what they may.

LAIRD AS A PRE-EMPTOR.

When the state press twelve months ago made the exposure of the Stinking Water pre-emption frauds, Congressman Laird came to the front after some weeks' delay with what his Hastings henchman called a vindication. Six solid columns of bombast and billingsgate were expended by the Daniel Webster of the second district in trying to explain his disreputable connection with Simon Kelley and his gang of french-jumpers. This so-called vindication was of course taken for what it was worth. Those who know Laird's propensity for jobbery took very little stock in his barefaced denials. If Mr. Laird and his associates have labored under the delusion that the Stinking Water frauds have been entirely forgotten, they will discover their mistake when their guilty meet their gaze. Mr. Laird had succeeded partly in smothering this scandal last winter, but Mr. Hurlbut, who had been defrauded out of his claim, made another appeal to the department last spring and a second inspector was sent to Nebraska to investigate the matter. There is no doubt, however, that his report will substantially be the same as that of Inspector Green, which we publish with affidavits and depositions giving the full and authentic history of the case. How can Mr. Laird face those charges and the impartial but very severe rebuke administered by Inspector Green in his report? Here is a congressman who used his influence with the McCook land office to assist in a pre-meditated scheme of wholesale land robbery. Can any man read Mr. Green's report without coming to the conclusion that the Hastings gang of bogus pre-emptors could never have crowded out the legal claimants if Mr. Laird had not packed the jury, so to speak, against them. It is hardly necessary for us to invite attention to Mr. Green's report, which we have only been able to procure within a day or two, after considerable trouble. It speaks for itself, and does not leave Mr. Laird an inch of ground to stand on.

AN AMUSING REMINISCENCE.

The Comical Mistake of John W. Garrett.

New York Times.

The death of John W. Garrett, of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, brings up an amusing reminiscence. Garrett and Harry McComb, of Credit Mobilier fame, were fast friends, though often on the opposite side of the fence in railroad projects. McComb used to stop at the Fifth Avenue hotel, while Garrett divided his time between the Brevort and the Brunswick. Somewhere along about 1880 or 1884 the Delaware legislature had combined to charter a rail line across its territory, placing a short cut within reach of the Baltimore and Ohio through to Philadelphia without obedience to the Pennsylvania. But the new charter was in McComb's hands. The Pennsylvania people were cooing at his elbow. Whispers from Baltimore way had to be most appealing. So President John W. Garrett journeyed over to see McComb. The old gentleman proposed to talk business to McComb for all he was worth and bridge over, if pretty propositions could do it, a little difference of a million or so. John W. got into New York two or three hours ahead of time. He was in a musing mood and not proud to walk. Up Broadway he sauntered leisurely, bound for the Brunswick, where he was to turn on the flood-gates of his eloquence. He was just opposite the Fifth Avenue, when along by his side strode a robust, clean-shaven, smiling man, looking enough like McComb to be his twin. The magistrate from Baltimore did not hesitate. Out went his hand with a greeting more cordial than Manhattan island had witnessed in a fortnight. Something like an expression of astonishment came over the face of the new arrival, but Mr. Garrett

swept on in his protestations of joy at the meeting. "We will run right over to the Brunswick and lunch," he ejaculated. His friend didn't object. To the Brunswick they went, and they dined in a princely fashion for an hour or more. Right along had the fascinating accents of Mr. Garrett flown. He had no ceases to rush directly to business. Enough for the moment was it to tell all about how beloved Col. McComb, and what gracious things he hoped some time to do for him. And the colonel, listened in silence. In silence he ate and in silence he drank; only the sparkle of an appreciative eye told how he enjoyed the good things of this life as the Baltimore & Ohio's president was able to dispense them.

"How long do you remain in the city?" quoth Mr. John W. Garrett. "Champagne had evidently bubbled up into the region of the colonel's brain. "I'm d—dashed if I know," was the rather inarticulate response of the man who for the first time had broken silence. "I'm d—dashed if I know. Fac' is, I'm old man, fac' is, I'm just back from the island to-day, and life is a little, just a little, kind o' shaky for a fellow when Cap'n Williams is down on him."

Co-Operation in England.

The marvelous development of co-operation in England is strikingly exhibited in a letter from the United States consul at Bristol, Mr. L. A. Lathrop, to the state department. There are two systems practised—one in which the ordinary retail prices for goods is charged, and a share of the profits of the business credited to the customer; the other, in which goods are sold at the normal price, and the share holders alone get the profit. The former is the system followed in the manufacturing districts among working people; the other is one that prevails in London chiefly. There are many co-operative stores in the manufacturing districts. The usual price for goods is charged, any one, whether a share holder or not, can purchase at a share. The profits are declared quarterly and if they amount to, say 10 per cent., each customer is credited with that percentage in the gross amount of his purchases. If he has bought \$20 worth of goods he receives a credit of \$2 or \$100 worth of goods he receives a credit of \$10. He is allowed to draw all his profits except \$5 which is retained, and entitles him to one share. If he chooses to allow all his credits to remain, and accumulate, he receives 5 per cent interest on them. The accumulations are slow but they count in the course of years, as this example will show. A member of the Manchester and Salford Equitable Society who joined and paid his \$5 in 1860, drew out down to 1879 \$260 as profits, and still had \$100 left to his credit—making a saving of \$428 in the nineteen years. This saving was affected without an effort to do it, being simply dividends on his purchases of goods. The working people's co-operative stores in the manufacturing districts have combined and established a large wholesale house at Manchester, managed on the same principle, and through which they receive their supply of groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, hardware, meats, provisions, and so forth, everything needed in a household or shop. The sales of this central house amount to \$15,000,000 a year. It controls the products of mills and factories, chartered vessels, and carries on a large importing business, all to supply its auxiliary stores. These auxiliary stores number 600, with 320,000 memberships. It is a rule with this auxiliary store to sell every article at its cost, plus a profit of 2 1/2 per cent. The sales of this central house amount to \$15,000,000 a year. It controls the products of mills and factories, chartered vessels, and carries on a large importing business, all to supply its auxiliary stores. These auxiliary stores number 600, with 320,000 memberships. 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