

THE DAILY BEE.

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

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WITH a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, the grade of Harney and Sixteenth streets may be carried through this season.

IS THERE no law by which men who own property on Farnam street can be compelled to put their sidewalks in proper condition?

GENERAL GRANT'S memorials will receive more gratuitous advertising than any other book ever published. The old commander is welcome to it, as every newspaper in the land will gladly aid in the good work.

THE Cheyennes, now in the Indian territory, are reported to be uneasy and threatening to go upon the war-path. The regular army may yet be more useful than ornamental if these redskins attempt another hair-raising expedition.

IF the city council cannot have the sidewalks on Farnam street improved, it certainly can give us better cross-walks on that thoroughfare. It should immediately put down flat stones in place of the rough granite blocks, which not only wear out shoe-leather but are painful to thin-soled pedestrians.

IF the visionaries who want to plant the city hall on Jefferson square would exert their energy and influence towards the grading and improving of Sixteenth street south from Farnam to the city limits, they would contribute a great deal more towards increasing the value of Sixteenth street property.

THE trouble with Omaha is that she has scattered her business over too much ground. In Denver, Kansas City, Minneapolis and St. Paul the public buildings and business blocks are located close together, thus making a compact business center, and giving business property greater value. From now on Omaha should centralize her business instead of scattering.

MR. GERE, the head of the Nebraska railway commission, officially announces that the commission will take no notice of charges of exorbitant freight rates in any cases prior to the 6th of June. Mr. Gere is undoubtedly afraid that the commission would be swamped with work. It remains to be seen whether the commission will take notice of any cases occurring after the 6th of June.

THE public has almost lost sight of Dennis Kearney since he settled down to the respectable and lucrative business of keeping a place in St. Francisco. Dennis has evidently tired of plea, and he now appears to be a candidate for the governorship of California. With a self-assurance that is characteristic of the great man, he predicts his own election in the most magnificent campaign ever witnessed in that state.

THERE will be no lack of cotton this season, if nothing occurs to injure the immense crop. According to department estimates there are 18,000,000 acres of cotton planted this year. If there should be an average crop the product would be over 7,000,000 bales. So big a supply would certainly swamp the market. But there are many contingencies between the sowing of the seed and picking the cotton which are yet to be encountered. The heavy acreage shows the undiminished faith of the southern planter in King Cotton.

WHILE we are talking about the necessity of viaducts across the railroad tracks, we should not forget that Omaha is large enough to have a union depot. She has paid for the Union Pacific depot grounds and given the railroad companies enough right of way to compensate them for the erection of a commodious and modern depot building. If such a building were erected at the foot of Farnam, Harney, or Howard street, the annoyance and danger to passengers would be obviated. There is probably not another city of equal population that has such wretched and inadequate depot and transfer accommodations as Omaha.

ELECTION REFORM IN ILLINOIS.

The election reform bill passed by the Illinois legislature is intended particularly for the city of Chicago, in which so many frauds have been perpetrated at every election for several years past. The operations of ballot-box stuffers, repeaters, and perjurers have become so frequent, bold and successful that the respectable citizens of Chicago, enraged at the frauds committed at the last election, resolved to appeal to the legislature for some remedial measures. They gave up all hope of ever having an honest election without some vigorous and effective legislation. Their appeal has been answered by the passage of a law, which, it is hoped, will work a much needed reform. Whether this new law will accomplish the much desired result remains to be seen. It certainly will not unless it is strictly enforced and a vigilant watch is kept upon the movements of the "gang," which seems to be almost irremediable. Naturally enough the "gang" exerted every possible effort to defeat every election measure towards reform, but happily the election law was carried by a handsome majority. It was a substantial victory for the republicans, and democrats did not support it, but on the other hand attempted to defeat it by an effort to prevent a quorum. They were working of course under the influence and direction of the Chicago gang. This new law, before it can be applied to Chicago, must be submitted to the people at the next regular election, next fall. In all probability it will be adopted, notwithstanding the efforts of the democrats and their professional strikers. However, there is a possibility of its defeat. It is rather unfortunate that the bill contained this provision, because it gives the old gang another chance to obstruct and defeat reform in elections. Why this loop-hole was permitted to remain in the bill is something we can hardly understand. If defeated next fall, however, it can be re-submitted at each succeeding general election until it is adopted. This makes it possible for its eventual adoption, as it requires only a majority of the votes cast on the proposition. It is safe to say that it will receive the votes of such democrats as believe in honest elections, and there certainly are quite a number of such persons among the democrats.

This bill provides for a board of election commissioners to be appointed from both parties by the county judge. The voting precincts are to be so arranged by the commissioners that each precinct shall contain about three hundred voters, and after each presidential election if any of the precincts shall have more than 450 voters a redistribution shall be made. This in itself is a commendable feature, for this limit of votes will give every voter an opportunity to get in his ballot, and enable the judges and clerks to furnish the count early in the evening and thus prevent frauds. The judges and clerks are to be taken equally from the two parties, and are to be appointed by the commissioners, who shall also supervise the registration list of voters. The doing away of voting by affidavit will prevent an end to wholesale perjury. Very strict rules will govern the count of ballots, and a returning board, consisting of the county judge, city attorney, and election commissioners, shall make the final canvass within one week after election. Severe penalties are provided for violations of the law. In addition to this election reform bill, another law was passed limiting the number of voters in a precinct to 450, and requiring the polls to be located in respectable places. This is intended to prevent the holding of elections in or near saloons, and this feature is also to be commended. It has become altogether too common to run a gin mill in connection with the ballot-box, and thus not only get the voters drunk, but also the judges and clerks, who, while in that condition, are not able to see the frauds that are perpetrated under their very noses. Still another law was passed by the legislature to govern the primary elections, this law, of course, depending for its adoption upon the action of the executive committees of the political parties. If adopted by the committee, as we understand it, it is binding upon the party. It is similar to the Colorado primary election law. With all these safeguards thrown around the ballot-box, the Illinois elections, especially those in Chicago, ought to be very free from corruption and fraud. It is to be hoped that these laws will be enforced to the letter, as everything depends upon that. There may be defects in these laws, but they can be remedied by legislative amendments. Experience will show what is needed in that direction. The worst feature is the closing of the polls at four o'clock in the afternoon. This provision was no doubt inserted because election day is to be a legal holiday, but as it is not to be a compulsory holiday the result will be that thousands upon thousands of voters, especially among the working class, will be disfranchised. The shops and factories will not be closed on election day, and hence the employees will be kept at work, and have little or no opportunity of voting. Workingmen vote before going to work, and at noon, and when they quit work at five or six o'clock in the evening. It will be found necessary, if the closing hour of 4 p. m. is not changed, to pass a law compelling the suspension of business while the polls are open, and providing a heavy penalty for any violations. The hour of 4 p. m. if election day is made a compulsory legal holiday, would then be satisfactory. It strikes us that the election days in this country are of sufficient importance to demand that all business be suspended during the hours of voting.

NEBRASKA CITY feels indignant over the effort of Gov. Dawes to delay the erection of a government building in that town with the appropriation secured by Senator Van Wyck.

Under the act of congress relative to public buildings it is necessary that the state, wherein such building is to be located, should cede its jurisdiction over the site. Secretary Manning, who has control over all government buildings, addressed a letter to the governor for the purpose of ascertaining whether the state had ceded such jurisdiction in regard to the Nebraska City postoffice site. The governor in response stated that it would require a special act of the legislature. Inasmuch as that body will not convene until January, 1887, unless called by the governor in extra session, the inference would be that nothing could be done towards the erection of the postoffice until 1887. The Nebraska City Press calls attention to the fact that the legislature passed a general law with regard to government buildings by which the state cedes jurisdiction over any of them wherever they may be located. This law was approved by Governor Dawes himself, but his memory in this matter, as in the case of the Tom Kennard claim, has been sadly enfeebled. In his last message he recommended that the legislature should settle Kennard's swamp land and Indian reservation claims, and abolish the claim agency, whereas the previous legislature had already repealed the law creating the agency, and Governor Dawes himself signed the repeal bill. His excellency ought to have a private secretary who knows less about military tactics, especially cavalry movements, and more about the laws enacted during his own administration.

THE ARIZONA TROUBLE.

The San Francisco Argonaut of a recent date asserts that the present trouble in Arizona arises from a plot of thieves and rascally contractors to make money by the presence of troops in that territory, that the Indians have been abused, starved, and deprived of their rights, and that the present outbreak is the attempt of the Chiricahua Apaches to escape from a prison reservation, as well as from starvation, which latter fact has been reported from time to time by General Crook. The Argonaut claims that since the organization of Arizona more white men have been murdered by white men than have been killed by Indians, that more horses have been stolen by white thieves than by Indians, that drunkenness has led to more assassinations and killings than have the Indian wars, and that nine-tenths of all the stories of Indian outrages are unadulterated lies deliberately manufactured by white thieves, army contractors, speculators and kindred plunderers, for the purpose of robbing the Indians. In view of this lamentable state of affairs the Argonaut expresses the hope that the Indians will give General Crook's troops a thrashing, and thus be enabled to dictate terms of peace by which their rights and immunity from persecution will be guaranteed to them. This is certainly taking a very strong stand upon this matter. No doubt there are two sides to this question, and we are led to believe that there is a great deal of truth in the charges made with regard to the treatment of the Indians in Arizona. In his annual report Gen. Crook stated that the Chiricahua were peaceably inclined and manifested a disposition to become self-supporting if the proper encouragement were given to them. They started in well, and made considerable progress in tilling the soil, although poorly provided with seed and implements. That they have not been treated fairly by the Indian department, and that they have been more or less provoked and plundered by white thieves and contractors, in order to make them go on the warpath, so that the maintenance of a large force of troops in the territory would continue to be a necessity, is quite probable. Granting that such is the fact, the responsibility for the present trouble rests in a large measure upon the shoulders of mercenary white wretches, whose scalps ought to ornament the belts of Geronimo and his followers.

REMARKABLE SIMILARITY OF THEIR CAREER IN POLITICS.

A Washington correspondent writes: A friend of Mr. Blaine's said to-day: "You may be sure that Mr. Blaine will never again be a candidate for the presidency." "I do not know," said the other, "but Blaine has a queer belief about his future based upon the marked similarity in the career of Henry Clay and his own! Early in life both went from their native States to Kentucky. Both entered public life as members of their respective legislatures, and a few years later both held a similar position in the Maine legislature. Mr. Clay was a member of congress afterwards and served as Speaker sixteen years. Mr. Blaine was also a member of the House and served as its Speaker six years. Mr. Clay was first elected to the Senate from Kentucky in 1806, but also to fill a vacancy in the Senate, and also to fill a vacancy in the House in Kentucky. The Senate to accept the Secretaryship of State from John Quincy Adams. Mr. Blaine resigned the Senatorship to become Secretary of State under Garfield. Mr. Clay was three times the candidate for the Whig nomination. He was twice defeated in convention. He was finally nominated in 1844, but was defeated by James K. Polk. Mr. Blaine was beaten in the National Conventions, nominated in the third one, and was defeated by Grover Cleveland. Mr. Clay's letters on the Texas question are held to be a parallel in their effect upon the writer to some of Mr. Blaine's letters. The Abolitionists in New York in 1844 threw their vote to Blaine and thereby elected him to the office of Governor. If it had not been for the votes given to St. John, Blaine would have carried New York. The vote of New York decided the election in favor of the Democrats in 1844, and again in 1848." Mr. Clay was never a candidate after his final defeat, and is believed by Mr. Blaine's friends that he will never again be presented to the public as a candidate. The parallel between his career and that of Clay will probably remain unbroken.

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No sane person will contend that a state should not use the labor of its convicts to produce at least sufficient revenue to prevent actual loss, provided the system does not operate to reduce the wages of free labor. The question is how can this be accomplished? The only way is by making it impossible to utilize the convict so that he will not compete directly with free labor for the state itself to assume direct control of the work, to be responsible for its expenses, and to receive the direct benefit of whatever profits accrue. If convicts are to be worked outside of the penitentiary they should not be worked for a less sum per day than the same class of free labor. The parallel between his career and that of Clay will probably remain unbroken.

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The Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce at Work.

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The committee has met with good success thus far in its labors, continued Senator Cullom. "In one sentence, the object we hope to attain by this work is that enabling congress to regulate the laws which control interstate commerce in such a manner as to remove, as far as possible, all grievances which may now exist, under present relations. To this end we seek the expression of representative business men, professional men and farmers in all sections of the country."

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Witnesses. Charles F. Goodman, was his first man to appear. Mr. Goodman had noticed recently the matter of classification between eastern and western lines. On account of the changes made in these classifications at Chicago it is not possible to secure through rates on many classes of goods. Especially is this so in the matter of glassware purchased at Pittsburgh and destined for Omaha. He believed that this existing state of affairs is an evil that should be remedied by government legislation, and that no difference should be allowed to control various sections of the country. The unit of rate thought Mr. Goodman ought to be made on the car load. Whether variations in rates should be made on the number of car loads shipped, he hardly felt inclined to give an opinion. In answer to Senator Cullom's inquiry regarding the system of rebates, and whether it should be allowed to exist or be abolished, the witness replied that he believed it would be better for the whole country to have the rebate system abolished. The transportation companies ought to make rates that would not give rebates. As between the retail and wholesale merchant, Mr. Goodman could see no reason why one should be favored more than the other when their amount of shipments are equal. Mr. Goodman had heard some complaints from people in Nebraska that they were not being as well treated by the railroads as other states. This, he thought, came principally from merchants throughout the interior who are compelled to pay higher rates on goods shipped to them from Omaha than they can get from Chicago. The friction between the railroads and people, however, he believed to be much less than it was a few years ago. The principal trouble about this change in the schedule of rates again causing a raise at Omaha for points west arises from the jealousy existing between two roads which invade the country, against transferring from one to the other. The system of pools he thought not a very bad one. Should a railroad company be allowed to charge as much or more for delivering a carload of goods at other than competitive points? He was asked by Mr. Cullom, to which the witness answered that he thought they ought to charge as much. The greatest trouble arising from the bridge at this city is the delay it causes sometimes to receiving goods.

A BANKER TALKS.

Capt. J. H. Stickle, a banker from Hebron, was the next gentleman interviewed. Mr. Stickle had his suggestions and complaints prepared in manuscript to the printed questions sent him a week ago by Senator Manderson. The witness in substance answered as follows: 1.—The people of this state at the polls last fall rejected the commissioner system as the best method of preventing extortion and unjust discrimination, which it does not work to the advantage of the producers. 2.—West of the Missouri river, local rates charged for freight are simply extortionate. There is not so much complaint regarding freight rates. 3.—Publicity of rates should be required by law; changes of rates without public notice should be prohibited. As to the best method of securing uniformity and stability of rates, the witness had no definite suggestions to make. 4.—The advisability of maximum or minimum rates are unquestionably desirable. 5.—The elements of cost should never include one mill of watered stock. 6.—Rebates and drawbacks should be entirely prohibited. 7.—Pooling should be entirely prohibited by law. 8.—Provisions should by all means be made by law for securing to shippers the right to select the lines over which to make their shipments. 9.—Do not know what method can be adopted to secure a uniform system of rates for transportation, but doubt the efficiency of the commissioner system. 10.—Living so far from tide water we could not stand pro rata charges as they would reduce our farms to \$2 per acre. 11.—Certainly no concessions in rates should be allowed to large shippers. The poor man should never be discriminated against nor the rich man favored. 12.—Cannot say whether corporations engaged in interstate commerce should be required to adopt a uniform system of rates. 13.—It is desirable that corporations make annual reports to the government. 14.—It is important to have a system of water routes for securing cheap transportation. 15.—Inter-state commerce should be regulated by law and not by a commission when asked by Senator Cullom to give a digest of the Nebraska law, Mr. Stickle said that it was called the Dan or Tub law, so called in illustration of throwing a tub at the neck of a horse. The law, he considered, was of no benefit. There has never been any prosecutions for violations under it. The committee was furnished by Senator Manderson with a copy of the Tub law to examine at their leisure. The new commissioner law not having been published yet, Mr. Stickle could not say what results will be obtained. The railroads, said Mr. Stickle, run this state and have for seventeen years. They have run it through legislation in their favor. The rates charged are simply extortionate and the common people are heartily sick of it. From Omaha to Grand Island the shippers pay 5 and 6 cents per ton per mile. The rates in this state, he thought, ought to be in proportion to the rates between Omaha and Chicago. One great trouble and impediment the people experience is a refusal on the part of all railroads to transfer freight from one to the other without back charges are first paid. Mr. Stickle believed that the Reagan bill, introduced in congress, would satisfy the people of this state. Mr. Stickle is decidedly in favor of all proposed railway systems being abolished, and that public notice should be given when any changes are to be made in freight rates. The corporations in this state, declared Mr. Stickle, are more powerful than the people. If the law of this state was in the hands of three men, unequivocally in favor of enforcing it, it would give satisfactory relief. With a tribunal that would hear complaints from anybody and then prosecute such complaints honestly and vigorously, some good results might be accomplished. In answer to a question as to whether congress should fix maximum rates and let them stand, Mr. Stickle thought that the shippers and producers could stand it better as the state of affairs are now. Whether the question of regulation should be delegated to congress or the people, the witness thought that senators and representatives were engaged too much in looking after their own comfort. Maximum and minimum rates would probably be of such elasticity that the factory charges might be made on any class of goods whether expensive or cheap, in its construction. SOME HISTORICAL FACTS. Mr. Edward Rosewater, of the Ber,