CHEERED BY YANKEE DOODLE

The First Exploit of the Nebraska First in the War for the Union.

A Successful Raid on Independence, Missouri--Four Condemned Prisoners Released---Nebraska's Share in the War.

Written for the BEE: In 1860 the census showed a population of only 28,000 in round numbers, in Nebraska, then a territory. A pretty small population out of which to raise a regiment of a thousand men in the spring of 1861, for the war that had then begun. When the news reached Nebraska that the American ensign had gone down before a domestic foe at Sumpter, the hearts of its people were stirred with as much indignation and with as strong a determination to vindicate the honor of the flag and save the Union, as was felt by the people of any portion of the northern states. There was a desire that Nebraska should be represented in the great struggle, though it was true, as stated by Dr. Miller, in his recent "Home Gossip," that most of these, who entered the First Nebraska Regiment of Infantry, joined it with the belief that the regiment would be stationed on the frontier of the territory, garrisoning the military posts, Fort Kearney, Fort Randall, and other points, from which United States troops were being withdrawn for service in the south and assurances were undoubtedly given by some to that effect, though not by the writer; no one had any authority to give such assurance, or pledges. We were entering the service of the United States, and would be obliged to go wherever ordered. As troops would be needed to guard the borders of Nebraska against the attacks of hostile Indians who might take advantage of the defenseless condition of the frontier, it was natural to suppose that a regiment raised here would be assigned to that service. Business considerations prompted a strong desire to have the regiment detained in a kind of home guard service. Furnishing supplies for a regiment of men and their trains, it was foreseen, would bring a large amount of business to Omaha and the other impoverished towns of Nebraska for all had felt more or less severely the effects of the disastrous panic of '57, and none had recovered from it. The writer, who was selected as the colonel of the regiment, believed all the time that it would be ordered south ultimately, even if it should at first be stationed on the frontier.

It will be remembered that the president first called for 75,000 men. When it was rumored that he would soon call for 300,000 three years men, or for the war, the writer addressed a letter to Simon Cameron, then secretary of war, requesting that one regiment be allotted to Nebraska, and it was so included in the call. In case no troops had been raised in this territory, he had fuly determined to go to St. Louis and enlist for service in some command that would reach the front. After a great deal of hard work the organization of the regiment was completed. Gov. Saunders was instrumental in securing two companies from Iowa to join it, one of them commanded by Capt. Bowen, now Senator Bowen, of Colorado; and Dr. Miller rendered valuable assistance to the recruiting agents who had been sent to St. Joe to raise volunteers.

The regiment having been mustered in, the colonel telegraphed Gen. Fremont, then in command of the western department, headquarters at St. Louis, asking for authority to take five companies to Fort Leavenworth, to obtain arms for the regiment. Gen. F. responding favorably, he, with five companies, proceeded by steamer to that point, and procured the arms, ammunition and equipments.

While there, the commander of the post informed the writer that he had received reliable information that four union men had been arrested as union spies by the rebels, confined in the jail at Independence, Missouri, some distance south of Kansas City, and were to be hung the next Saturday. We were a kind of roving, independent company, without orders to report to any one. Here was an opportunity to rescue four union men from a cruel, unmerited fate, and also a chance to try the regiment with a little service in the field; so the undersigned determined to make the movement. Capt. Sully, afterwards Gen. Sully, who commanded an expedition against the Indians, in which the Second Nebraska served, accompanied the expedition. Taking the steamer, and moving down to Independence Landing, some ninety miles, or so, from Fort Leavenworth, we disembarked, and marched to the town, eight miles distant. We had one piece of artillery along, and the men were furnished with new arms. We did not know whether there were any rebel forces there or not. As we approached, the band was directed to play the Star Spangled Bander, and then, as we entered the city, to strike up Yankee Doodle, which was done, and with a vim was played till the column halted in the public square. It was learned, that, hearing the notes of the Star Spangled Banner was the first intimation the people had of the approach of the federal troops. The more active secessionists were greatly alarmed, and without waiting to learn more, rushed to the livery stable, seized horses without asking, with or without saddles, and rushed furiously out of the city in an opposite direction, making for hiding places in the timber. Planting the field piece in the plaza and throwing out pickets, after ascertaining the report of the confinement of the union prisoners and their intended execution was true, taking one company and pressing a citizen into the service to lead us to the jail, we proceeded thither. Halting the company in front, the writer, accompanied by Capt. Sully, ascended the steps and gave a heavy knock upon the door. It was soon opened by the jailor, when he said to him, "You have four union men held as spies in your jail, awaiting execution, have you not?" Upon his replying in the affirmative, he was told to bring them immediately, an order which he quickly obeyed. Taking the prisoners with us we retraced our march to the boat, and returned to the fort, having accomplished the purpose of the expedition. The people of Independence were thoroughly frightened by the sudden apparition of union troops in their midst, and they were notified that if any more union men were molested there, we would return and raze their town.

There are times when it is pleasant to be in the possession of power. It was an agreeable thing to do, to command the instant release of those Union men laying there in a pungeon under the shadow of the gallows already erected, with no hope of release, and to possess the power to enforce that demand, to open the prison doors, and set the captives free.

As we marched away, the men told me they were sitting in their cells, brooding over the fate that awaited them when, suddenly the notes of Yankee Doodle, from a brass band, came floating in through the grated, narrow windows. At first they could not account for it and were amazed; but the sounds approached nearer and nearer, and grew more and more distinct—they then felt that their deliverers were at hand. They said the sudden transition from black despair to the bright reality of their deliverance caused feelings which no languare could describe.

Three years afterwards, while sitting in front of my tent one evening down on the borders of Louisiana, an officer in the uniform of a captain of cavalry came up, and said: "General, do you remember to have ever seen me before I joined your command?"

Replying that I did not, he then said: "Do you remember releasing four union prisoners from Independence jail in July, '61?"

"Very well," was my reply.

"Well," said he, "I am one of them. I am Captain Chapman, of——Kansas cavalry," a regiment which had recently joined me. That was another compensation for having made the move on Independence jail.

The First Nebraska did not return to the territory till its tenure of service expired, and then it reorganized as a veteran cavalry regiment, and its first colonel did not return till the war had closed. It is not believed now, that any citizen regretted that the regiment went into the war in the south, for it made a splendid record, and it is a satisfaction now to know that Nebraska did her whole duty in the work of saving the union. She can claim her full share of the glory of its consummation.

JOHN M. THAYER.

GRAND ISLAND, Sept. 26.

Prague.

American Architect: Alexander Humboldt, first and greatest of "globe trotters," is often quoted as having called Prague the most beautiful inland city he had ever seen. If the quotation is not authentic it is certainly ben trovato. Without rivalling Humboldt, I have seen many cities in many lands, yet but very few—whether inland or sea-girt—which are worthy even to be compared with Prague for beauty. Its charm is half natural, half architectural; and the two factors harmonize and enhance one another so admirably that it seems as though nature had worked with a prophetic eye upon the artist, and the artist always with a grateful care for her.

The city lies on both sides of the Moldau—a wide and vigorous stream dotted with wooded islets—where it makes a right-angled turn, and flows east for awhile after having flowed due north. On the right bank, in an amphitheatre of hills, lie the Alt-Stadt and the Neu-Stadt, once separate quarters divided by a wall, but now blending together and appearing of quite equal antiquity. At the extremity of the Neu-Stadt—that is, at the up-stream extremity of the town—rises the hill called Wyscherad, where the first founders of the town established themselves at least as early as the ninth century. Here in 874 was built Prague's first Christian church, the second in all Bohemia.

The historic interest of Prague is as great, and also as varied and as picturesque, as its architectural interest. It is a serious story enough if understandingly pondered. But to the average ignorance of the casual tourist it does not seem serious so much as brilliant, and again, entertaining in quality. It is very dim and misty in its earlier portions, and the barbaric Bohemian names which mark the chronicle sound as fantastic and unreal as the nomenclature of some remote mythology. Even when we get down to firmer foundations, and think of the great religious wars which here had their center for hundreds of years, even then, I fear, our knowledge is likely to be but superficial. Who Ziska was, and Huss, and Jerome of Prague and Wallenstein we know, and what were Protestants and Catholics. But this is by no means enough of a clue to make plain the mazy tales of local leaders and of endless warring sects and quarrelling congregations and brotherhoods (ironic term) which form the staple of Prague's wild record.

IN THE CHAIR.

The Comforts Americans Enjoy in a Barber's Shop, To-Day.

Baltimore American: The men who patronize barber shops in the United States are not aware, perhaps, that they enjoy a boon denied to their brethren in other countries. The truth of this statement was learned from the barber on North Calvert street who declared that of all places on earth the United States was the best place to get a clean, comfortable shave. This compliment to the barber shops of the land of the free was paid on the strength of the vast improvements made in barbers' chair bears the same relation to a barber shop that a well-drawing stove does to the kitchen. The pride of a barber shop is the chairs. The barber may be skillful and swift, the soap pure and fragrant, the brush easy and gentle, the towels clean and white, but these all together could not atone for the absence of an easy-chair. To the United States belongs the credit of getting up barber-chairs that are as easy as a feather bed.

Among the latest styles of chairs are many diversities. There is a winter chair and a summer chair, which possesses some of the features of both. For summer use the latest fashion is a cane chair. It is large and roomy and affords the greatest ease. A person can recline in it with as much comfort as on a lounge. For winter use there is the upholstered chair, which is a perfect gem for comfort. The combination chair is reversible, and can be used in winter and summer. The more fashionable barbers, however, do not advocate its use, but prefer a separate chair for winter and summer use. Many men just step into a barber shop to get a little rest and the head bathed. Then the easy chair acts like a charm. The easy chair has done much for the barber. In America there is more shaving done at the barber shops than in all the balance of the world. In France the barber is engaged by the month and calls at the house of the customer to ply his craft. In England most of the men shave themselves. No where in Europe can you find an easy and comfortable barber shop. Americans find a great deal of trouble in getting a good shave abroad.

Forgot She Was Married.

St. Louis Whip: They were young, had been just married and came to Saratoga on their bridal tour, taking rooms at the "Masonic Hotel." At 10 p. m. they retired and everything was peaceful until about midnight, when the guests of the house were aroused by hearing a terrible shriek from the room occupied by the newly married couple. Upon Colonel Allen going to investigate matters he found the bride at the top of the stairs in her night robe, and upon seeing him she implored him to save her from a man who was in her bed-room. Colonel Allen sent the night clerk in, who found only the husband, and he was rather excited. When asked the cause of the racket, he said, "I just know, awoke, and seeing Lily, my wife, sleeping peacefully by my side, I placed my arms around her, and was just going to kiss her." He could get no further with his explanation, for the simple reason that Lily had returned, and throwing herself on her husband's neck, said, "Charley, dear, Charley, dear, forgive me. I declare I forgot we were married!" Before 12 o'clock the next day the happy pair left for parts unknown.

Few People Would Have Thought of That.

St. Paul Herald: Lady, in registry office—"I'm afraid that little girl won't do for a nurse; she is so small. I should hesitate to trust her with the baby." Clerk—"Her size madam, we look upon as her greatest recommendation. You should remember that when she drops a baby it doesn't have very far to fall.

EFFECT OF A LAND TAX.

Its Benefits and Beauties Pointed Out in Detail.

The Inequalities of the Present System of Taxation--The Injustice of Protective Duties.

"Thrice armed is he who hath his quarrel just."

It is with great pleasure I note the discussion of the labor question at its very vitals. I am pleased to see the BEE, as it always has been, standing on the side of the oppressed, unflinchingly, amid the taunts and sneers from those who are the champions of those who live of the sweat of others' brows.

Many good and noble souls are in sympathy with those who are struggling for right and justice, but until late they have cherished their hopes in the darkness of their own bosoms. At last, however, they are beginning to think aloud. Let the good work go on and a better and brighter day will dawn upon those sons of toil; nay, all will be benefitted, for it is only in peace and brotherhood that we can realize the fullest enjoyment of this world's riches.

I like Mr. Maccarthy's plan off and tax. Of course, I understand that he means a tax upon land irrespective of the improvements. Such a plan is not only the most just, it is the most easy and feasible.

As I belong to the rising generation and take no interest in the dead issues of the past; as I keenly feel the injustice done to the producers of all wealth for ages with but slight amelioration, and as I am one who will not flinch from what I deem the paths of truth and justice, I desire to present a few facts apropos to the question.

Now with your kind permission I will point out the effects of such a tax. But before going on, let us clear up some facts, which, simple though they be, are persistently and dogmatically overlooked or ignored.

In discussing political economy (the labor question) we have three primary factors to consider, viz: Land, labor and capital. The meaning of these three must be distinctly understood, and they must have a fixed meaning.

Land is the product of nature; the gift of God to man. It is a fixed factor. Nothing that man can do can increase or decrease it one iota. It is indispensible to man. Without land he can not live; and those who hold the key to use, hold the key to the life of his fellow man. Without it the laborer cannot exert his labor and produce wealth. Labor is the power of man, with or without the aid of machinery, to produce wealth. This he can only do by having recourse, directly or indirectly, to land. Wealth is the product of labor, and that alone. It is the accumulation or saving of labor. It is a factor which is not fixed. Its increase or decrease depends upon the exertion or want of it by labor. Wealth is also checked by taxation, and the heavier the tax the greater the check. A tax for example of fifty cents a piece upon fruit trees would greatly tend to diminish the production of this staple. If a tax of $5 a piece be levied the planting of fruit trees would cease, and everybody having them would be quite liable to chop them down.

By this simple example it will be seen that no matter how small the tax upon production (wealth and capital) the tendency will be to check it. A tax upon wealth is, in fact, a tax upon labor.

Dr. Adam Smith has well defined capital as that part of wealth which is used to produce more wealth. By placing all tax upon land all other tax must be repealed. Let us see what these are.

I once read an editorial in one of the Lincoln dailies that taxation is in reality a very small item, so small that it is of no consequence in our social fabric. Let that editor wipe the blur of ignorance, willful or real, out of his eyes and look around him. We have a protective tariff of about 40 per cent. Some of it goes to the government and a goodly share finds its way into the pockets of monopolies. The tendency is to make the articles "protected" more expensive by 40 per cent.

Take a slate and pencil and figure out the amount of tax the consumer (laborer) who consumes $500 worth of wealth, pays at that rate. We often hear of the interest of taxpayers (meaning those owning property.) It will be seen how ridiculous this sounds to one who does not take his mental food already masticated and digested, ready for assimilation. But the unthinking are blinded with the delusion, it having been constantly dinned into their ears, that the foreign manufacturer pays this tax. Splendid scheme to have Johnny Ball pay our taxes.

Does not the importer advance the amount, he receiving it from the jobber, the jobber from the merchant, and he from the consumer, who finally pays the full amount plus the interest? Descend, oh ye gods, and deliver us from such folly! The plea is given that it keeps foreign products out of the country, "protects" our laborers (may be one fourth?) and thereby makes wages high. Well, that is curious. That's surely burning the house to roast a pig.

Suppose our manufacturers could pay $1 a day. If there are twice or thrice times as many men to do the work as are needed, would they do it? Besides, it makes the living of laborers much higher. Does not the consumer ultimately pay this tax, together with the interest? Some will doubtless point to the fact that good wages came with the advent of the present tariff. But did they come because of it? Let us see. The present tariff bill was passed in 1861, shortly after which over 2,000,000 able-bodied men were mobilized. These not only produced nothing, but consumed much and destroyed more. It does not take a college professor to see that the supply of laborers was greatly reduced. Wages since the close of the war have been steadily declining, and, although they raise now and then, the tendency is constantly down; a tariff as high as the moon could not make wages as good as the decade of the war.

But there is another, and far more important, cause why wages were high since our high tariff. This is persistently ignored. In the very year and month this tariff bill became a law, there was also the present homestead law passed, being the same as free land.

Though the immigrant had to wade for miles through thinly settled districts, like the proverbial bull that waded across a stream to get a drink, he found refuge on free land in the far west, and while one army was still facing the south, another was bearing toward the setting sun, seeking free homes, thereby still more thinning the supply of labor. It is the free government land which has been, is, and, as long as it lasts, will be the cause of good wages. But in a few brief years all will be gone, and when it is finally gone the great tide of emmigration will roll back upon the crowded cities. It may be well to state that free trade will not make things much better. That it will improve matters somewhat is obvious. True, wages will not be better, maybe not quite so high, (but this has never been demonstrated) all necessaries of life will be cheaper, and families can live for less, less money will be necessary to carry on trade, thereby diminishing interest, and making the flow of money easier. Another slight tax is the present rent paid, not to the government for its maintenance, but to individuals, known in Ireland as gracious landlords. This infinitely small tax is all the way from one-fourth to three-fifths of all that is produced by labor on farming land, sometimes in cash, sometimes in shares. In cities it is much more. It is well to note that as a country advances in population and civilization, land becomes more expensive and consequently this rent tax; at the same time wages become lower and lower until it reaches the minimum of a bare existence.

Now if the protective tariff be wiped out as it should be it would cheapen all things "protected" which are mainly the necessaries of life. It will lessen the cost of living somewhere near forty per cent. Consumption will be stimulated and so will consequently production.

That free trade is the cause of low wages is assumed because they are lower in England than in the United States; but I ask, why are wages still lower in Germany and other more or less protected countries? The fact is that neither free trade or protection is the cause of lower or higher wages, and the primary cause must be sought elsewhere. There is no doubt that legislation will have some effect, but not very much.

By placing all the tax upon land it will knock the bottom out of land speculation. It will make house rent cheaper by lowering ground rent. It would ultimately confiscate ground rent, that is, it would nationalize land. It will make land free to anyone desiring to use it, thus removing one barrier to the free use of everyone's powers. This would breakup the competition among laborers, the one thing the reverse of an auction sale, which makes wages low and the laborer's life a misery. If laborers could not find remunerative employment they could have recourse to land, the great reservoir upon which all must ultimately depend. Remember that all need not go. Some will be required to supply those who do go with what they cannot themselves readily produce.

The Knights of Labor hit the nail squarely on the head when they declared the primary cause of low wages the monopolization of earth's bounty, and Mr. Maccarthy, by being in favor of a land tax, stands precisely on the same platform.

The plea given that this system has never been tried is very weak. Why, we would still be scratching the ground with a stick and grinding corn with a mortar but by experimenting. This republic—what is it but an experiment, an experiment at which European wiseacres sneered before its consummation?

If this article should meet the eyes of some farmers who own a little patch of ground, it is very likely that they will feel shy. I would suggest to such that they lose no sleep over the matter. In another article I will show that instead of it being a burden upon them it will on the contrary be a great benefit. What effect it will have upon railroads, merchants, etc., I will point out in the same paper. Yours truly, A. G. GROU.

SUTTON, Neb.

A SURPRISED COUNTESS.

An Austrian Lady's Stolen Necklace and its Recovery.

Vienna is much aggitated over a scandal there. The countess of L——, a great lady moving in the court circles there, is passionately fond of pearls—in fact, she is the female counterpart of Lord Topaz in "Lothair." A few weeks ago the countess received a visit from her jeweler, who very strongly recommended her to become the purchaser of a most magnificent "rope of pearls." "They are quite unique, madame, I assure you," said the jeweler, "and the price to you is only a hundred thousand florins." "Only a hundred thousand florins," repeated the countess, with a smile; "but n'importe, let me have a look at your gems. I feel strong enough to resist the temptation to buy." Thereupon the jeweler opened the casket which contained his treasure, and displayed a string of pearls of such faultless beauty that Lothair himself would have been proud to present them to the Lady Corisande. Meanwhile the opening of the casket acted like magic upon the countess. No sooner had she caught sight of its contents than she overwhelmed the jeweler with a heap of questions. "Where, when, how did you come by these pearls? How much did you give—I mean from whom did you buy them?" "I did not buy them at all," replied the astonished jeweler; "neither do they belong to me. They were merely intrusted to me by a lady to sell on commission. I should have hesitated a long time before buying such pearls as these, for which one cannot find a customer every day in the year, madame; no, indeed, they might have been upon my hands for months—years."

At the urgent request of the countess a footman was at once dispatched to bring the lady who had deposited the pearls with Mr. ——to the palace of the Countess of L——. After a brief delay the lady arrived, young, handsome, and elegantly dressed in the heighth of the reigning fashion. She listened with a subdued smile to the series of questions which the Countess of L—— addressed to her. Nettled, but still retaining the command of her temper, the countess wound up by touching a secret spring in the fastening of the necklace. "There," she exclaimed, pointing to her arms and the motto engraved on the side of the fastening, "however you came into possession of these pearls, you will hardly venture to dispute that they belong to me. Four years ago they suddenly disappeared from my jewel case, and now, after all inquiry had proved fruitless, they are found with you! I am under great obligations to the lady who has restored to me that which is my own." The countess accompanied these words with a bow and a smile of profound irony. In answer to this tirade the lady uttered not a word, but, opening a small reticule which she carried in her hand, produced a highly scented billet-doux and handed it to the countess, who started as if a serpent had stung her, and swooned upon the spot. On recovering consciousness she went straight to her writing table, wrote a check for the amount demanded by the lady, and gave it to her without uttering a single word. The billet-doux was in the hand writing of the countess' only son.

How the Undertaker Got Even.

Detroit Post: "Some folks regard the negro as childish and simple-minded," said the South Carolina undertaker, as he borrowed another match to light his cigar, "but it doesn't always do to look upon 'em that way. It was only last week one of 'em beat me out of $10 as slick as grease. I was sitting in my office growling about hard times and the dislike of people to fall into my sympathetic care, when in walked a negro. He was the picture of health and a jolly fellow.

"'How's times?' says he.

"'Poor,' says I.

"'How much for a coffin for me?' says he.

"'When?'

"'To-day.'

"'I'll give you that coffin over there and see you put under the ground this afternoon for $15, and that's $10 off the regular price.'

"'Dun,' says he, and he put down his 'X,' and I'll be kicked to death if he didn't hang himself within two hours, and before night I had to bury him. He had planned to suicide before he came in. I got even, though."

"How?"

"Resurrected the stiff, and sold it for $4, and put the coffin back in stock."

For a wager of two dollars a resident of Danbury, Conn., swallowed a small live frog the other day.

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FIRE AND SMOKE

And we will sell that same $15 suit at a reduction of $5 allowed by the insurance companies, giving the suit to a purbhaser for $10. Our space is too limited to say more than that all goods found in our store, damaged by

FIRE AND SMOKE

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