

THE DAILY BEE.

OMAHA OFFICE, NO. 914 AND 916 FARM ST. NEW YORK OFFICE, ROOM 6, TRINITY BUILDING. WASHINGTON OFFICE, NO. 51 FORTNEY ST.

Published every morning, except Sunday, the only Monday morning paper published in the city.

TERMS BY MAIL: One Year, \$10.00; Three Months, \$3.00; Six Months, \$5.00; One Month, \$1.00.

THE WEEKLY BEE, Published Every Wednesday.

One Year, with premium, \$12.00; Six Months, \$7.00; Three Months, \$4.00; One Month, \$1.00.

ADVERTISING: All communications relating to news and editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor of the Bee.

RESIDENCE LETTERS: All business letters and communications should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha, Nebraska.

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETORS. E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

FRIDAY WAS Andy Jackson's day. It was a cold day for Old Hickory.

The blockade of street railway traffic has made scores of our citizens yearn for a system of cable lines in Omaha.

If the Nebraska railroads had displayed as much energy during the blizzard as they sometimes do in politics, their tracks would have been kept open and the trains would have been running through the entire storm.

Gas pressure regulators are being extensively advertised. The best gas pressure regulator for the city would be an ordinance of the city council fixing reasonable rates on the second wind which now passes current for gas in the city.

DR. PANCAOST, of Philadelphia, who is something of an astrologer, says the year 1886 will be "in the cycle of Michael." So Englishmen seem to think and as they look across the Irish sea add the names of Dennis and Pat.

With one editor refusing to pay his gas bill and another going back on his ice bill and the supreme court decision that all Omaha lunatics must become a special charge on the county, Omaha is in an awfully bad way.

"MESSRS. FURAY, LEE and Thrane will allow their partisanship to override their honesty," but their will be no partisan bias shown by the democratic members who are whipped into line to sign and support a barefaced negation of the sworn testimony produced before the investigating committee.

It was not to be expected that the Omaha cost nulls would close voluntarily, and so we are not surprised to learn that the old justices refuse to give up their docket. They were the only mills in Omaha that paid regular monthly dividends without regard to investment. It will probably take a supreme court mandamus and a policeman to close the door. Meantime who will be idiot enough to bring suit in these bogus courts?

SENATOR MANDEISON'S bill making Omaha a port of entry has been favorably reported from the committee and has passed the senate. It should now be pushed in the house for all it is worth. Omaha importers have suffered heavy drawbacks from the annoying delays and red tape regulations which have prevented them from enjoying prompt receipts and speedy appraisement of goods passing through the custom houses in the east. Senator Manderson's work on behalf of his Omaha constituents.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for the Y. M. C. A. building are coming in slowly, but the advance is steady and strong hopes are entertained that the erection of a handsome and commodious structure will soon be assured. The people of Omaha should respond liberally to this object. All other cities of our size are better provided for in this respect than our own, and public pride entirely apart from any consideration of the praiseworthy aims of the association should be an incentive to a generous response to the appeals of the managers.

The attempt of our democratic contemporary to convince the public that every city official of Omaha who refuses to bow the knee to its editor is a swindler and a villain will not succeed. It has not been a success so far, and it will fail as utterly in the future. Those who know the motive for the scurrilous assaults of the editor of the Herald on honest and respectable city officers, in which the most disreputable charges have been bandied freely in its columns, will not be deceived. The unfortunate part of this disgraceful personal warfare, waged for political ends, is the unenviable notoriety which it may give to Omaha in quarters where the tactics of Dr. Miller are not understood.

LUNACY is not contagious, but it is hereditary. Last fall Mr. Tom Nye of Fremont refused to exhibit his blooded stock at the Dodge county fair because the managers had invited Senator Van Wyck to deliver the annual address. Now his boy has gone stark mad over the phantom of Van Wyck, and wildly calls the senator a natural born thief, a demagogue and a fraud. If it were not for the late decision of the supreme court that all lunatics sent from Omaha are an annual charge on the tax payers of the county, we should recommend a commission to go through the form required by law in safely disposing of an inherent case of lunacy.

A LIVELY warfare is now going on among the papers of St. Paul and Minneapolis regarding the lately published statistics of each city's growth during the past year and the cause of truth is being promoted in consequence. It appears that the St. Paul boomers count as investment in new buildings during 1884 the sum of \$400,000 for bridges, as much for finishing and furnishing a hotel, and then they add to the declared value of new buildings as given when permits were taken out, a round 50 per cent for under-valuation. No wonder the twin cities manage to hold up imposing figures for the admiration of the country and of the world. If Omaha had added 50 per cent for under-valuation, had footed up her furnishing figures and duplicated every barn and cow shed erected within her corporate limits she could easily have raised her totals several millions higher.

Cleaning Them Out.

Mr. Sparks continues bravely in his work of cleaning out the Augean stables of the general land office. He has unearthed the system by which for years the railroads by corrupt collusion with the clerks and heads of divisions have been enabled to secure information in advance of its proper publication, and fifteen or twenty of the guilty parties will be made to walk the plank. As every one suspected, the railroad account and survey divisions are discovered to have been the chief nests of the gigantic frauds by which the government has been defrauded of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Sparks has now struck his gilt and bids fair to make a record which will immortalize his name in a frame of railroad profanity through the long vista of the ages. The certainty of these damning discoveries of Mr. Sparks, if he continues in office, is the milk in the cocoanut of the vociferous demand for his instant removal, which has been ringing for a month past in Washington. Every land grant lobbyist and corporation tool in and out of congress has joined in the yell that Sparks must go. The press has been brought under contribution by a syndicate of Washington correspondents who have represented the entire west aflame over the infamous rulings of the general land commissioner.

The fact of the matter, as we have stated before, is that whatever errors of judgment Mr. Sparks may have made in minor matters, he is eminently a man of integrity, honesty of purpose and integrity in his management of the great interests entrusted to his care. For fifteen years the railroads have had absolute control of the land office. Mr. Sparks' predecessor, McFarland, was an honest man personally, but he was hoodwinked by his associates and lacked the ability to investigate the workings of his office. He owed his appointment to influence of the Kansas senators, who in turn held their seats by the grace of the monopolists and land rings. Senator Ingalls was notoriously Gould's man, and while Plumb still poses as the farmer's friend he has always been in with the cattle kings, and has made large fortunes in banking with pointers from Wall street. His pockets are bristling with annual assess, he is a declared enemy of the Pullman enterprise. With such backers Mr. McFarland's good intentions never reached the point of actual performance. As for Williamson he was body and soul owned by the railroad ringsters, and his administration created and fostered the most disreputable scandals in the land department.

Mr. Sparks is attempting to clear the rascals out. He has shown not only the inclination but the ability to purge the land office of the disgraceful abuses which have clustered around it under the administrations that preceded it. He is going forward in his task undismayed by threats and undeterred by the tempest which his course has drawn about his ears. He ought to be sustained by an overwhelming public sentiment west, as well as east, while he is engaged in his thankless effort to secure even-handed justice to all.

A Mistaken Policy.

The attempt of Postmaster Vilas to make the far western states and territories bear the burden of retrenchment in the postal service should be resisted by the western delegation in Washington. The reduction in postage last year entailed a deficit of more than eight millions upon the postoffice department. This deficit Mr. Vilas proposes to reduce during the coming year. He has already commenced operations by cutting down the service in the far west between the railroads and the small interior towns and villages where the only communication is by stage and backboard. In other words, he has adopted the policy of decreasing the service where it is already the smallest, and of throwing upon the settlements served by the fourth-class postmen the entire burden of making good the deficit caused by the extension of facilities in the large offices of the east. Idaho, Montana and Wyoming are suffering already from the change, and Nebraska is likely to next feel the effects of Mr. Vilas' retrenchment. The policy of the postmaster general is a mistaken and a false one. It is against public interest, and highly detrimental to the west. It will do much to cripple the remarkable development of the new portions of the country with no counterbalancing advantage. The settlers on the frontier and off the lines of railway are entitled to their share of the postal service, for whose support they, with the rest of the country, are taxed. The extension of mail service should go hand in hand with the increase of settlement. The men who push out beyond the limits of the thickly settled portions of the country are entitled to fair and generous treatment at the hands of the department whose business they are assisting to increase. Liberal dealing in postal facilities proved to be a paying policy until the late reduction of postage, and its continuance will repeat the history of the past. What difference does it make whether the postal department is a tax or a source of income for the next five years, when compared to the effects of such a policy of false economy which Mr. Vilas is now putting into effect.

The treasury can stand the drain, the people have sense enough to understand that the best investments are not necessarily those that pay from the start and no one outside of the office of the postmaster general himself is making any complaint over the effects of the reduction in postage.

Mr. Vilas should be made to cry a halt to his scheme for retrenchment. It is ill advised, needless, and will work great injustice and hardship to those who are forced to submit to its effects. Public interests and the prosperity of a great section unite in demanding a more liberal and not a less generous policy in the inland mail service.

The senate had a short session on Friday, but it was long enough to pass Mr. Edmunds' Utah act with all its most stringent provisions retained. At the risk of being called a "Jack Mormon" by the Salt Lake Gentle agitator, the Bee still questions whether wholesale consecration of church property is the proper method of enforcing compliance with a law for the regulation of social customs and the marriage relation. Polygamy in the United States is a crime and a disgrace to our civilization, a defiance to our laws and a broader of social pestilence, and as such ought to be sup-

Internal Improvements.

While the scheme of wild-cat and often corrupt schemes for internal improvements at the national expense passed away several years ago, congress will doubtless be appealed to at the present session to aid a number of important projects which have for their object the development of the country. Several of these have much merit upon their face and will bear all the investigation to which they may be subjected in open debate. The improvement of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers to an extent enabling them to be used for large transportation of the products of the west to the seaboard, the junction of the Mississippi and the lakes by the Hennepin canal, the canal across Cape Cod and the Florida peninsula are each and all projects to which national aid could readily be voted, because the objects sought for and the benefits to be derived from the expenditure would not be limited to state boundaries. The question of cheap transportation is the pressing economical problem of the day, and whatever tends to promote it affects both east and west, producer and consumer alike beneficially. With a treasury surplus properly handled in promoting internal improvements and making available our navigable streams and shortening transportation distances for the movements of the crops, the excess of taxation could be turned into a benefit instead of being incentive to the raids of speculators and demagogues.

Some of the democratic constitutional expounders at Washington are predicting a strong party opposition to all appropriations for internal improvements on grounds of democratic traditions and a strict construction of the instrument under which our government operates. So far as the traditions of democracy are concerned the record of the party in opposition to all wide reaching plans for the development of the country cannot be gainsaid. The principle of the proper limits of constitutional construction, however, has advanced in the last quarter of a century beyond the bounds set for it before that time by the moss-backs of the party. It has developed with the developing necessities of the country, and has shown a proper flexibility in its adjustment to the new relations and wants of the added states and the vastly increased population and territory. To retrace the years to 1824 to find arguments against the constitutionality of internal improvements is the height of senseless conservatism, which will receive no support from the mass of reasonable men throughout the country. Fidelity to the principles underlying the constitution is one thing. Neither party possesses a monopoly of this virtue. A blind disregard of the changes which a century has wrought in the political and economical conditions of the country on the ground of political consistency is not a safe conservatism but "the attribute of stones and fools."

In a Nutshell.

Dr. Miller appears to be very sensitive about the strictures of the press and the fact of his paper in connection with the exploded charges against Marshal Cummings. The prosecution have utterly failed to make a case. All they have shown in the trial is that two or three hundred dollars were raised to pay legal advice for Travis, supply him with decent clothes and means to take him to his home. There may have been more money borrowed than was actually needed and the probabilities are that a good portion was pocketed or squandered by some of the parties who handled it. There is not a scintilla of proof to show that a dollar was paid either directly or indirectly to Marshal Cummings. Gen. O'Brien swore point blank that he didn't pay him a dollar, and did not drop that mysterious glove containing a hundred dollar bill. No sane man believes that O'Brien would pay a hundred dollars, and O'Brien, as a lawyer, feels grossly insulted to think that anybody would believe him to be such a fool. McHugh, who is the only person that admitted the agency to raise money for Travis and get him out of town, swore that he didn't pay or offer to pay the marshal a dime. Judge Benke swore that he ordered the release of Travis because he could not legally hold him any longer, and believed that the marshal acted squarely in the matter. This was a clincher within itself, because it showed on its face that the friends of Travis did not need to see the marshal. Chief of Police Skinner of Council Bluffs swore that the marshal gave ample notice to the parties in Council Bluffs who wanted Travis to bring their requisition and take the property, before the time set for his release expired. They failed to come and the marshal obeyed the order of the court. The only evidence on the other side is the improbable and unsupported story of a man who pretends to have been approached and refused a bribe, kept this criminal proposal a secret for more than a year, always represented the marshal, whom he believed to be a bribe taker, as an honest officer, and only divulged the terrible secret after he was reduced from the captaincy of the police to the ranks. This is the whole case in a nutshell. In the face of this exhibit Dr. Miller and his paper are raving and ranting about conspirators and grand juries and yawning penitentiaries, making outrageous threats against counsel who would refuse to perjure themselves to give a verdict not borne out by the testimony. He drags before the court of public opinion the names of private citizens and accuses them of trying to defeat the ends of justice by corrupt collusion and secret conspiracies. Such a course naturally subjects him to the suspicion of being out of his senses or so warped by political bias and personal hatreds that he has become lost to all sense of justice and common decency.

Forfeited Land Grants.

HADDAM, Kinn., Dec. 30.—To the Editor: Will you please advise in the Bee when the Kansas Pacific railroad land grant comes open for settlement. I see that the Bee claims that the grant has been forfeited. By so doing obliging a subscriber and reader of the Bee for the last twelve years.

N. B. ENGLISH.

American Opera.

The week has been signalized in New York by the brilliant opening of American opera in the Academy of Music under the direction of Theodore Thomas and Herr Hoek and through the munificent patronage of Mrs. Francis B. Thurber, who personally assumed the expenses of inaugurating the movement. From the reports of the metropolitan press, there can be no question of the success of the first performance, which was Goetz's "Taming of the Shrew." Critics note with surprise the careful training of the chorus and ballet, the admirable stage setting and the perfection of the orchestra. These, of course, are the solid foundations upon which the permanent structure of the opera must be built, and these on Monday's performance were distinctively American. Some criticism was indulged in because the stars failed to reach the standard of the leading prima Thomas and tenor which Mapelson and Gye have from time to time imported to this country, but the managers of the new undertaking claim that they have reserved their best wine, in this respect, for the last. The most interesting feature of the movement which Mrs. Thurber has begun so auspiciously is her earnest determination to found a school of American music, to stimulate native musical talent, and to offer the means and the opportunities for our countrymen and countrywomen to win honor and reputation at home without being subjected to the expense and perils of a foreign training. On the other hand she promises to provide for New York the best of the foreign operas given by a company whose careful training and continued labors shall be directed solely towards artistic excellence, and not alone towards swelling the profits of the box office.

Our esteemed and excellent contemporary, the Kansas City Times, takes exception to a remark of this paper referring to Omaha's growth:

The esteemed Omaha Bee exclaims: "Who can longer doubt that there is a most magnificent future before this young giant city of the west?" If you are speaking of Kansas City, nobody doubts it. There is only one young giant of the west. Omaha is, doubtless, the young giant of Nebraska, and a very creditable town it is. But, please! Kansas City could attach Omaha to the east side around Woodland avenue and two-thirds of the Kansas City people would think it nothing but natural growth.

Kansas City is very modest. Its suburbs extend from Jefferson City on one side to the Colorado boundary on the other. The principal streets of Kansas City are as narrow as the alleys of Omaha and as crooked as the Elkhorn river. If there is such a street as Woodland avenue on her maps, it is probably located on the outskirts of Topeka. When Omaha adopts the Kansas City plan of expansion she will probably find her creditable west worth \$250,000,000 an unmitigated rot. Pierpont Potter, aged 94, the oldest Mason

In the United States.

according to the Brooklyn Eagle, has become insane at Jamaica, L. I.

Isabella is said to be a rather popular candidate for a second rulership of Spain, because she has "all the dear old Spanish ways."

Mr. Ezekiel, the sculptor, is becoming socially the most conspicuous American in Rome. Nobody can chisel him out of his good fortune.

Hon. Frank W. Palmer, late postmaster at Chicago, has brought the Knoxville (Tenn.) Chronicle, and will take possession of the paper, Jan. 15.

Joseph Pulitzer, of the New York World, recently purchased \$100,000 worth of government bonds. Joseph has the World, and wants the earth.

Ben Holladay, the once famous mail contractor, is a claimant before congress for about \$20,000, which he has been trying to get for fifteen years.

Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood is going to lecture for the benefit of a baseball club up in Lewistown. It is expected that the baseball players will be paid for her in 1888.

Mr. Kelley will practice law in New York. Should Francis Joseph ever be arrested in America for murder, the state will do well to employ Mr. Kelley to assist in the prosecution.

P. T. Barnum is said to be growing stooping in proportion to the weight of his years. In this generation a citizen must hump himself in order to keep up with the procession.

General Jubal A. Early is described as a venerable-looking man, his long, white beard reaching to his waist, and his bent figure indicating the rapid advance of extreme old age.

Maud Banks, daughter of Gen. N. P. Banks, has appeared at Waltham, Mass., in a little drama of her own composition, entitled "Auld Robin Gray," and a local critic says she is distinguished by the rare quality of "forgetfulness of self."

A Dead Town. Hammond, Ind., Tribune. Our town is dead—the pretty school marm has gone.

A Whack at the Doctors. The little facts with morals are beginning to come in with the year. The county in Florida which has the lowest death rate is also the one having the fewest doctors.

On the Dry Dock. Kansas City Times. A boastful Omaha paper says that when the Kansas city fellows come up in September they will be floated back in champagne. Pithier, not so fast. It is only the third day after New Year's, and the Kansas City fellows are on the dry docks for repairs.

He Should Read Republican Papers. Chicago Tribune. Perhaps Mr. Cleveland is not to be blamed so much for his assertion of the prevalence of necessity. He is, doubtless, honest in his intention, but he ought not to confine his reading to his party organs.

Sensible and Practical. A new paper published at Silver Plume, Col., has a very sensible and practical motto, which reads: "Trying to Do Business Without Advertising is Like Winking at a Girl in the Dark. You May Know what you are Doing, but Nobody Else Does."

The People Notice It. Chicago Herald. Any one who watched the proceedings of congress during the last fifteen years cannot have failed to be impressed with its seeming ineptitude or unwillingness to deal with important measures affecting the welfare of the whole people.

In the Sweet Bye and Bye. Fremont (Neb.) Tribune. Oleomargarine probably isn't so bad a thing after all. It certainly tastes well and looks good. But the next thing we know the Yankee genius will be adulterating it and the public will be clamoring for the good old days when pure oleomargarine could be had.

About Bogus Butters. Rochester Chronicle. A great many people pretend that they like oleomargarine. If they like it they ought by all means to have it. But oleomargarine ought not to be adulterated, and the sooner vigorous measures are taken to stop such sale the better. The fraudulent sale of oleomargarine can be ended.

Pay Your Subscriptions. Hudsonville (Ill.) Tribune. A majority of the subscribers of the Tribune know that there is very little of my time that I am able to be away from home, on this account we shall be indebted to our friends who promptly remit it and renew their subscription to the Hudsonville Tribune, the journal that we advocate what is really and will oppose the corporations that are consuming it without leaving no equivalent, but mortgages and poverty.

Not Pleading to Missouri Democrats. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Probably though he was giving wings to a very smart comparison when he said the other day that the Apaches were "similar in character and skill to the James boys' band of outlaws, who, although few in number, so long deigned the authorities;" but he will discover that such remarks are not calculated to promote his popularity among the democrats of Missouri, in whose philosophy the James boys stand for the highest form of modern virtue and heroism.

Laird's Say. Nebraska City News. The sweet singer from the slopes of the Stinking Water land deal, the right honorable Hon. David Laird, member of congress, has published a speech in the Congressional Record denunciating of Hon. A. J. Sparks, commissioner of the general land office. The speech was never made in the house; it was never made anywhere. It only shows how a thief can hate a sheriff, how a burglar despises an anti-felon, how low a prostitute derides virtue, how nasty and ridiculous pure snow, and how windy, vain, mendacious James Laird can attack a solid, laborious, capable, honest man like Commissioner Sparks, whose the News begins to love because of the kind of enemies he is making.

STATE AND TERRITORY. Nebraska Jottings. A flouring mill is to be built at Culbertson. Ulysses is considering a waterworks proposition.

Improvements for the year footed up \$90,000. There are now 9,000 head of cattle in the yards at Gilmore. J. S. Root, of Buffalo county, boasts of a porker weighing 1,000 pounds, and only thirty-four months old.

A snook thief crawled into the cloak room of the McCook opera house and made off with an armful of winter wraps. The plans for the postoffice at Nebraska City have been approved, and work will begin as soon as the weather permits. The passengers snow-bound at Plattsmouth last week overflowed the hotels and were kindly cared for in private houses.

Since the Union cattle company began business in Sarpy county the freight receipts for the Union Pacific railroad at

Gilmore have averaged \$10,000 a month.

The Ulysses Dispatch writes the public against the story that the editor is a bald-headed philanthropist, with a gold-headed cane and an income of \$70,000 a year.

The dispute over right of way between the Burlington & Missouri and the Missouri Pacific roads through certain farms north of Papillon has been amicably adjusted.

Mr. S. P. Reynolds of Arapahoe, who was arrested a week or so ago upon the charge of murdering the boy, George Hill, resulted as anticipated in a complete vindication of Mr. Reynolds.

The late deceased blizzard struck Nebraska City with a dull, sullen strength. Up in these parts it struck the natives to the marrow and plastered the tender spots with clouds of arctic powder.

The Burlington & Missouri river company purchased 200 acres of land near Broken Bow, paying \$50 an acre. This town will probably be the junction of the Omaha & North Platte and Grand Island & Wyoming Central railroads.

Two "well-dressed and gentlemanly" printers, one of whom was a first-class and trudged to Plattsmouth last Friday, braving the terrors of the blizzard around the big bend. Securing a square meal and a fresh "chaw," they started out on the highway for Kansas City Saturday morning.

A pile tender in Nebraska City was viciously attacked while greasing his joints at a convenient saloon, by a fellow workman who was evidently an intention to oil up. The pile tender's mug was crudely illustrated with three "cuts," and a copious flow of blood earned the tiled corridors of the groggery. No arrests.

The Grand Island & Wyoming Central is not a paper road, neither are the extensions of the Grand Island & Northern, work on two branches of which is now progressing right along, while a third branch is already horsing up an intention to oil up. The pile tender's mug was crudely illustrated with three "cuts," and a copious flow of blood earned the tiled corridors of the groggery. No arrests.

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