

THE DAILY BEE. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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CORRESPONDENCE. All communications relating to news and editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor of the BEE.

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Sworn to before me and subscribed to by me this 13th day of October, A. D. 1888. GEORGE B. ZECHER, Notary Public.

The school board was last night notified that more seats were needed in some of the school rooms. Hands up!

There are illegitimate newspapers as well as children. The one is born for iniquity, and the other of crime.

Readers of this paper during the campaign will find news of all political parties. In political, as well as other matters, THE BEE buzzes for all.

There is a race-war in democratic circles in South Omaha. Each nationality claims recognition and demands a hunk of the spoils. 'Twas ever thus.

The rank and file of the untried in South Omaha are opposed to a combine in favor of any republican, and will deprecate any such tie-up by their alleged bosses.

The electors of Douglas county are noted for a tendency to pick their men, regardless of party lines, in local elections. There is no reason why they may not do so again.

The correspondent who desires to know the amount of revenue reduction which would be made by the senate bill is informed that it is estimated at about twenty-five million dollars annually.

Between Dr. Mackenzie and the German physicians who attended the unfortunate Frederick there is a chasm wider than the British channel. By the way, who is unprying this European mill?

So many members of congress have left Washington that the spectacle of the two houses legislating for the country without a quorum reminds one of Mark Twain's first audience, which consisted of one man, who had previously been bribed to applaud the speaker.

A CORRESPONDENT asks how long he must reside in the city to qualify as an elector. An American by birth, or a naturalized foreigner, he must have resided in the state six months, the county forty days and the ward or precinct ten days, in order to become a legally qualified elector.

The women of Nebraska will be proud to learn that one of their number, Mrs. Ada M. Bittendorf, has been admitted to practice before the supreme court of the United States. This is a distinction to which few women can aspire, and it is an honor that has been conferred to only three women in this country.

To THE two hundred business men from Superior, Brainerd, Fremont and other cities, Omaha bids a cordial welcome. They will be hospitably received and entertained by the merchants of our city, and it is to be hoped that they will take home the kindest feelings for the metropolis of the state.

SITTING BELL made a speech before Secretary Vilas at Washington which at least had the merit of brevity. His style of oratory, though not much in favor among congressmen would commend itself to them. He said nothing, but said it well. In this respect he made a similar record to that of a Nebraska congressman, who says little but keeps up a terrific talking.

THE declaration of the election of President Diaz to a second term by the Mexican congress completes the formalities necessary to confirm the popular vote held some weeks ago. The almost unanimous re-election of General Diaz is a most healthful sign of the tranquility, and of the progress of Mexico. It is the strongest guarantee for the future of the republic, and will encourage the investment of American capital for the further development of its resources.

FOR the first week in October the railroads of the country report a gain of four per cent as compared with the corresponding week last year. There is moreover an activity in railroad circles that speaks of heavy shipments of grain eastward and of coal westward. All roads are hampered for want of cars. Various western railroads report that they have not only all the business they can handle, but that the rush will continue well into spring. All this is gratifying and gives a buoyant tone to business.

THE CONVICT LABOR QUESTION.

It was expected that the democratic party of Nebraska would endeavor to make political capital out of the convict labor question, and that in order to do this the party would not hesitate at any extent of misrepresentation. Its effort in this particular is to throw the whole responsibility for the legislation extending the convict labor lease and contract upon Governor Thayer, but fair-minded men who will acquaint themselves with the record will not be influenced by this misrepresentation.

In his speech in this city Monday evening, Hon. C. O. Wheldon outlined the full history of the legislation in this state providing for the leasing of convict labor, and we commend it to the attention of our readers. It is shown by Mr. Wheldon that the subject was given a most thorough investigation by the committee on penitentiary, and that the policy of leasing the convict labor was endorsed by all the officials and ex-officials of the state, among the latter the only democrat ever elected to a state office.

The original prison contract was executed in 1877, and in less than two years thereafter it was extended for the period of six years, there being but seven votes recorded in both houses against the extension.

The bill of 1887 for further extending the lease was discussed by the Knights of Labor and amended agreeably to their suggestions, and a Knight of Labor was a member of the committee on penitentiary concurred with the other members of the committee in reporting the bill to the house for passage.

Such is the unquestionable record of the course of legislation on this subject, and it shows that the policy of leasing convict labor had the support of a larger number of democrats in the legislature than opposed it. Regardless of the merits of the question, there is obviously no honesty on the part of the democrats in dragging it into the state campaign, and we do not believe their doing so will have any influence upon fair-minded men.

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The original prison contract was executed in 1877, and in less than two years thereafter it was extended for the period of six years, there being but seven votes recorded in both houses against the extension.

The bill of 1887 for further extending the lease was discussed by the Knights of Labor and amended agreeably to their suggestions, and a Knight of Labor was a member of the committee on penitentiary concurred with the other members of the committee in reporting the bill to the house for passage.

Such is the unquestionable record of the course of legislation on this subject, and it shows that the policy of leasing convict labor had the support of a larger number of democrats in the legislature than opposed it. Regardless of the merits of the question, there is obviously no honesty on the part of the democrats in dragging it into the state campaign, and we do not believe their doing so will have any influence upon fair-minded men.

WITHOUT A PERSONAL FRIEND. Of no other man in public life in the United States could it be truthfully said, as the New York Sun has said of Mr. Cleveland, that he has not one devoted personal friend. That journal is credited with the following remarkable assertion: "Mr. Cleveland lives in the peculiar situation of not having in all this broad land one single devoted, earnest, cordial, personal friend. There is not one man who can truly and comprehensively say that he likes Mr. Cleveland." And there will be few to question the truth of the assertion.

What is the explanation of the fact that a man sitting in the highest place of power in the republic, with a vast patronage at his command, and with boundless opportunities to make sincere personal friends, is thus isolated from all earnest and hearty friendship? Obviously there must be in the character and manners of such a man an entire absence of those qualities that attract, and which win confidence and respect. His nature must be unnaturally hard, his conduct repellent, and he must be wholly devoid of every kindly and generous sentiment. This would not be an altogether unjust description of Mr. Cleveland. Whatever he may have been as a Buffalo lawyer and official, among his associates of that period, his political elevation since has developed personal qualities which have not drawn men to him in the relation of sincere friends. He speedily forgot those who had done most to secure his elevation, while as to others he adopted a practice of exclusiveness that kept them aloof. He has never shown any interest or sympathy with the society of which he is a part, and for a time he was so unapproachable that even the leaders of his party in congress kept away from him. Such courtesy as he has been called upon to show in public has always been formal and cold, and never before was the white horse less attractive to the people than since he became its occupant. A man of strong passions and imperious will, with unquestioning faith in himself, Mr. Cleveland has none of the qualities that win true personal friendship, while his political ingratitude has been so conspicuous as to incur the displeasure and resentment of all who have experienced it, and the number is not small.

The man is not to be envied, whatever may be his station, of whom it can be said truthfully that he has not one single devoted, earnest, cordial, personal friend.

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED. The requirements of the law, so far as registration is concerned, do not generally seem to be understood. Several enquiries have come to THE BEE asking why steps to publish the places where registrars sit have not been taken. No such steps have been taken because they are not needed. For the first presidential and state election in years, the largest city in Nebraska will vote without any list of registered voters as a guard against election frauds. Voters may step to the polls and offer their ballots, subject only to individual challenge. There will be no registry lists to be checked off and no preliminaries in the way of oaths as to residence in state, county or ward. The reckless crew who hacked and hewed the Omaha charter during the last legislature destroyed the registration clause at the same time that they cut out the sections making a park system possible, and the clauses compelling railroad corporations to bear their share of municipal taxation.

This is unfortunate but it cannot now be remedied. Whatever glory there may be in throwing wide open the ballot box must be reaped by the charter mongers who did not hesitate to assault the interests of a whole city to satisfy personal interests or to vent personal spleen. The removal of the safeguards of registration demands increased labor and increased vigilance on the part of good citizens of both parties.

THE pugnacity of Senator Blair, which was entirely unsuspected until his controversy with a southern senator about a month ago, and the discovery of which gave him a new prestige, was again displayed on Monday when he denounced the president as an infamous laborer, reference being made to the now memorable reflections made by Mr. Cleveland on the character of Mary Ann Dougherty. Congress, it will be remembered, passed a pension bill for the relief of Mrs. Dougherty, and in vetoing it the president charged that she had been a woman of bad character. It was a proceeding of questionable propriety, to say the least, on the part of Mr. Cleveland, and the evidence since obtained appears to conclusively show that it was also unwarranted. Mr. Blair has been especially earnest in championing the cause of Mrs. Dougherty, and his remarks on Monday show that he certainly did not help it, however, so far as this administration is concerned, by his characterization of the president, however justifiable that was, and Mrs. Dougherty must count upon waiting until there is a successor to Mr. Cleveland before she can hope to have justice done here.

CHICAGO will know her most prominent citizen no more. "Long John" Wentworth is dead. He whose stature made him a most conspicuous figure among men has passed away. But Chicago will mourn for her venerable founder for other reasons. Mr. Wentworth was a pioneer closely identified with the growth and progress of Chicago. For many years he served the interests of his city in many capacities. As mayor of Chicago he saw her develop out of swaddling clothes into a city of rich promise. When he took his seat in congress by the vote of his fellow citizens, Chicago had already become one of the leading commercial cities of the country.

LITERARY NOTES.

There are three plantings by General J. S. Brislin, U. S. A., in the cloth, pp. 35. New York: Harper & Brothers.

General Brislin has much to say of Nebraska in this his latest and, we believe, his best work. For many years identified with the interests of a treeless state, he early turned his attention to the problem of forestry and to the study of trees and tree planting in connection with the needs of the western prairies and plains. The result is a book which is at once an eloquent protest against the spoliation of our forests and a comprehensive compendium of knowledge on the subject of forestry. General Brislin's idea is that both profit and honor will result from tree planting—profit because of the growing scarcity of lumber, honor on account of the certainty of general recognition of the high mission of repairing the damage done to the country by the ruthless destruction of trees. He has written his work much as one would do in introducing to the public a new crop whose successful and profitable culture had been demonstrated by actual trial elsewhere, and which was not generally cultivated only because its value