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

THE DAILY BEE.

Sworn Statement of Circulation.

George H. Tschuck, Secretary of the Bee Publishing Company, does solemnly swear that the actual circulation of the Daily Bee for the week ending December 29, 1888, was as follows: Monday, Dec. 29, 18,000; Tuesday, Dec. 30, 18,000; Wednesday, Dec. 31, 18,000; Thursday, Dec. 28, 18,000; Friday, Dec. 27, 18,000; Saturday, Dec. 26, 18,000; Average, 18,000.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 29th day of December, 1888. Seal N. P. FEIL, Notary Public, State of Nebraska, County of Douglas.

GOVERNOR THAYER and his message will now have the floor.

The eyes of the state are centered on the legislature, and the eyes of the legislature are fixed on the speakership.

The railroad oil-roads have laid in a fresh supply of "oil." A good many elbows need greasing at the legislative halls at Lincoln.

Not a single councilman has shown his face at the meetings of the citizens' charter committee, but Omaha will get a revised charter for all that.

The last legislature appropriated \$2,722,896.86. These staggering figures ought to be kept in view of every member of the incoming legislature.

CHICAGO should go into better business than making faces at Omaha and run the inter-state commission with complaints of discrimination on packing house products.

DAKOTA will know just how she stands on the admission question by January 15, when it is highly probable that the union will take a vote. Unless the unexpected happens, Dakota will be very jubilant over the result.

ST. PAUL, Minn., is finding difficulty to raise funds for the building of an ice palace, due to the carnival last year, from a financial point of view, was not entirely successful, and this evidently explains why the purse strings are now drawn so tightly.

In 1885 the grand total of legislative appropriations was \$1,678,790.19. In 1887 the legislature increased this already burdensome tax to \$2,722,896.86, over a million dollars increase in two years for identically the same state government.

The president-elect is evidently busy in preparing a draft of his message. He has suspended his public receptions, and the wise-ones about Indianapolis are nodding their heads significantly about the recommendations which General Harrison will make.

WHEN a governor writes to the county attorneys of his state, "should you at any time become satisfied that the law is being violated by any railroad company doing business in your county, I trust you will not fail to enter complaint before the grand jury with a view to secure an indictment," it looks as if that governor intended to enforce the laws. And that is what makes Governor Larrabee popular in Iowa.

OF THE two hundred and eighty wholesale and retail liquor dealers in this city, but two hundred and sixteen have applied for licenses within the time prescribed by law for doing business beginning January 1, 1889. If all of these applications are granted by the license board, there will nevertheless be a material falling off in the number of liquor vendors. It now looks as if the revenues for the public schools from this source would be cut down fully fifty thousand dollars for the coming year.

The rapid rate of increase in the tide of immigration to this country, which for nearly three years kept up its flow, has been checked. The returns for the close of the current year, will show an increase of about twelve thousand as compared with last year. But during the past few months there has been a perceptible decline. It is highly probable that the influx for the early months of 1889 will show a still further falling off in comparison with the corresponding months of this and last year.

It is undoubtedly true that the number of failures of banks and business houses in Nebraska during the past few years has been proportionately less than those of any other state in the country. The national banks of this state, especially, are noted for their safe and conservative management. Nevertheless, the loose state laws on banking have made it all too easy for men of small capital and men with dishonest purposes to embark in the banking business. The banking laws of the state cannot be revised too speedily for the protection of legitimate business and for the good name of the state.

THE CLOSING YEAR.

The year 1888 will be memorable chiefly for its contributions to political history, both in the United States and in other lands. In this country the presidential campaign was one of the most notable in our history. Conducted with great vigor, earnestness and tact, and on a higher controversial plane than usual, it will long be remembered as a political contest of exceptional character. From its result in returning the republican party to full control in the government there is expected to proceed most important conditions affecting both the material and political affairs of the nation. Political events in other parts of the world have also possessed great interest. The death of the aged emperor of Germany and the accession of his invalid son Frederick threatened serious complications affecting the peace of Europe, and this menace was thought to be intensified when Frederick died and his son William succeeded to the imperial rule.

The conduct of the present emperor thus far, however, has tended to quiet apprehension, and although the situation of European affairs is still somewhat strained, the danger of war appears to be much less than in the early part of the year. In France there has been more or less political commotion, but the friends of the republic have proved themselves strong enough to hold the nation firmly on the lines of a conservative policy and thwart the designs of those who would change or overturn the existing order of things. In England the political events of the year have not been especially notable, or at least have had no great interest for the world at large. Looking to South America, the most important fact in the year's record is the triumph of the emancipation cause in Brazil, after a contest that had lasted many years. In our neighbor republic, Mexico, the re-election of President Diaz assures a continuance of the progress and prosperity of the country, and of the friendly relations that subsist between the United States and Mexico.

Industrially and commercially the results of the year have not been so favorable as were those of the previous year. Enterprise in nearly all departments has been curtailed, labor has not found full employment, and in all countries the crops were materially reduced. The United States, however, suffered less than any other country, notwithstanding that in addition to natural causes producing depression, there was the drawback to business of a national political campaign involving a question respecting which most industries are peculiarly sensitive. While the product of our manufacturing industries has not in the aggregate been equal to that of the previous year, railroad construction has been considerably less, the building industry has not been so active, the crops are short, and our export trade has declined, yet the country has increased its wealth doubtless in a greater ratio than any other, and is still in the van of prosperous and progressive nations. If the advance has not been so great as in some other years, in no department of human enterprise and activity has there been a halt, and there is every reason why the people of the United States should be gratified with the material results of the year and with the promise which the present situation holds out. With an abundant supply of money in the country, our financial position among the nations unimpaired, all lines of legitimate business on a sound and conservative basis, and with no disturbing political issues, certainly the conditions are most favorable and fully justify the expectation that the coming year will witness a marked enlargement of enterprise in all directions.

In the necrology of the year prominent names in every department of life figure. This country mourned the death of Sheridan, Chief Justice Waite and Roscoe Conkling as the most eminent of its dead, but there is a considerable list of others who left vacant places in their respective vocations that will not be easily filled. In the number and extent of its calamities, natural and accidental, the experience of the year was perhaps not of exceptional severity. The yellow fever epidemic in Florida claimed many victims, but its ravages have been exceeded. The inundations in China, by which one hundred thousand lives were lost, was a calamity that has been rarely paralleled. The great blizzard that swept through the west and northwest in January was unusually disastrous to life. But except these sufficiently terrible visitations there was no great and uncommon calamity to command the attention and sympathy of the world.

On the whole the history made in 1888 contains much more to commend than to condemn or regret, so far at least as this country is concerned, and it will close with all the conditions favorable to continued progress and an enlarged prosperity.

THE INDIAN SIDE OF THE SIOUX QUESTION.

There is a feeling that the attitude of the Sioux Indians on the question of opening their lands as proposed by the Sioux bill in congress was not clearly set forth by the Pratt commission. The general impression has been that the Indians were governed wholly by mercenary motives in their opposition to part with their lands and were incited to this course by the squaw men and leading chiefs. With commendable enterprise the New York Herald has recently sent a representative to the agencies, whose report throws considerable light on the action of the Indians. Chief Gall, who was the most fearless champion for the Indians during the Pratt negotiations, fairly represents the views of the Indians. In speaking for himself, he pleads for his people. To the Herald representative, he said: "My people will soon be like the white people. The Indian government is passing away and soon the chiefs will have no power. The older men like myself can never be as the whites are. We know what is good for us too late. We all know that our only hope for

justice is to educate our little ones, and when they are men and women, they will not let us be cheated. It is slow work but the time will come when the Indian will be able to meet the white man on equal grounds. The men that were sent by the Great Father to get our land found out that we had rights. We are afraid to take any important step till our children are educated and can tell us what we are doing."

Chief John Grass, who likewise was prominent before the commission and who is the statesman of the Sioux nation, expressed himself as follows: "It would not do to open up the whole reservation and scatter our people. We are poor and ignorant. The schools will soon prepare our people. Our future depends on the schools. When our children are educated they will be honest with us. They will read the newspapers and each will think for himself, and my people will not run after one man like a flock of sheep. As for the land question, we are willing to part with a portion of our reservation. It is a lie if anyone says that we object to it. In the past our fathers were very ignorant and gave away the land that belonged to them and were cheated. The words that were given to them were not carried out. We don't want any more promises. We are willing to give the Great Father eleven million acres of our land for eleven million dollars. We want to sell for cash and have the money put in the Great Father's Treasury so that we can have the money at interest for our own enjoyment as we learn what is best for us."

Such statements as these certainly give a different coloring to the Indian side of the question. These Indians mistrust the government not without cause in the great land transaction. They recognize that their only salvation is civilization, and it is to their children that they look for the solution of their rights. And while they are ready to dispose of a part of their lands at a fair remuneration, they are not willing to part with all of them and scatter their people, who are yet too ignorant and helpless to be self-supporting or to defend their rights against the encroachment of white men. The Indians have certainly made out a strong case in their defense. They make an honest appeal for fair play and justice. If the Indians remain firm in their purpose, as represented by the interviews of these leading chiefs, congress cannot but recognize their honesty of purpose and adopt a policy toward them in conformity with their views.

HOW THE ACCOUNT STANDS.

The condition of the national treasury at the close of the year is a matter of interest. According to the most trustworthy estimates the surplus at present is in the neighborhood of fifty-nine million dollars, which is about ten millions less than it was at the beginning of the year. This is a considerable less sum than was expected to appear to the account of the surplus at this time, and the fact shows either the unreliability of treasury calculations, or that the prediction of a larger sum was for political effect. In any event, this surplus is obviously not a matter about which anyone need become seriously alarmed. It is not believed that this surplus will be materially increased during the present administration. The receipts for December have been large, and the trade conditions are such that those for the ensuing two months will probably be very much smaller, and certainly a good deal less than for the same months of the present year. With the ratio of bond purchases maintained there is therefore not much likelihood that the surplus accumulation of the present year will be much enlarged when the new administration comes in.

Of course no change of policy is to be expected from the present administration, and there is no reason apparent why there should be. The abundant supply of money in the country and the condition of business assure an easy market for some time to come, so that the treasury has simply to go on with its routine duty of disbursing money on appropriations and taking such bonds as may be offered at prices not unfavorable to the government. It might safely continue the purchase of bonds, so far as the money market is concerned, but there is no good reason for doing this, and the secretary of the treasury has admitted that such purchases will result in a saving to the government he will hardly be disposed in the last days of his administration to abandon so serviceable a course. Conjecture as to what may be the policy of the next administration would of course be idle, but as the policy now being pursued has the warrant of republican example it will very likely be continued after the present administration has gone out. Meanwhile the financial situation of the country promises to remain entirely satisfactory.

THE DEADLY ELECTRIC WIRES.

The old story of the good-natured tailor who allowed a shivering camel to thrust his nose into his shop for warmth, followed by the head, and finally the entire animal entering the room, while the obliging knight of the shawl found himself in the street, is being repeated in the indifference with which the city government and the public at large allow the ever increasing network of electric wires to overspread the city.

After every large fire there is a spasmodic complaint about the matter, but in a few days the subject is forgotten in the woe of some suddenly deposited policeman or a new scandal.

That the control of this very important branch of our public service is of great importance the history of all the large cities of the east proves conclusively, and the consideration of a few figures may prove instructive.

In Wisconsin the railroads have been in the habit, until recently, of distributing passes not only to members of the legislature but to their families, friends and neighbors for the mere asking. It is estimated that the railroads of Nebraska are equally as lavish with their favors. The question in the minds of the people of this state, who in the end pay for the railroad rides of the state officials and their sisters and their cousins and their aunts?

Russia is now said to be supplying Europe with petroleum in competition with the Standard Oil company. It is possible that the export trade of

American coal oil will suffer a considerable decline, due to the boycott of American oil in the Chinese market, and the reported falling off in Europe.

Remarkable Portents.

The eclipse of the sun and the eclipse of the full moon of the candidates for speaker occurs on Tuesday next.

A Possibility.

There are 422,400 railroad ties in this country, most of which will be consumed during the coming March by domestic ex-officials on their way home from Washington.

Public Offices Is a Personal Secret.

Those who visit Indianapolis to ask for federal appointments generally come away with the conviction that General Harrison regards public office as a personal secret.

The Ham Factor.

The hamfactors, who want "protection," are probably right in entertaining no fear of retaliation. A prohibition of foreign actors on the part of England, France or Germany, would not exclude American hamfactors.

The West Will Be Ahead.

From present indications the speakership contest is likely to become a trial of strength between the west and the east, and it is hardly necessary to add that, in such a contingency, the west will certainly furnish the successor to Mr. Carlisle.

Give Him Time to Breathe.

General Harrison receives no callers this week. That is, none with the exception of four or five wild-eyed and importunate office seekers. The bon ton are staying away and giving the president-elect an opportunity to look about him and find out whether he is living in Indianapolis or the Soudan.

On the Wrong Track.

The proachers seem to take an eccentric view of things when they protest against the use of \$100,000 for the inaugural ball, and are silent regarding the millions of money used in carrying the election. The corruption of the ballot-box would appear to be fraught with graver dangers than even the voluptuous dance.

Brilliant Barbs of Silence.

The brilliant fit of silence which Vice President Morton has displayed on the subject of cabinet appointments at Albany was from Indianapolis affords tolerably good evidence that President-elect Harrison manifested an equally expressive talent of the same kind while the latter end of the ticket was visiting him.

Giving the Veteran a Show.

Under the law, which exists in New York, requiring the municipal authorities to give old soldiers the preference in furnishing employment to be paid for out of city treasuries, a street commissioner at Albany was arrested and fined \$100 for discharging an old soldier without cause a week ago. They give the vets some consideration down in York state.

The "Honorable" Were There.

"Buffalo Bill" Cody has been visiting his former haunts in the far west, and has received a warm welcome from his old friends and comrades. He was given a reception at Omaha, Neb. Judges, generals, colonels, majors, captains and honorables without number were present. It is hinted that one or two citizens without handles to their names stepped in unawares.

Relocate Them to the Rear.

Give us a rest on Walt Sealey, and give us a rest on the whole old gang of cut throats that have disgraced their seats while there and stole them when they left. Let some new and unpoliticized blood come to the surface and let the contractors have recourse to let them have a chance. Let officers be elected who will hold the interests of the state above their own private affairs. No man has a life lease on the offices and perquisites of this state, and it is time some of the cormorants were relegated to the rear.

The Admission of Utah.

In case of admission of Utah the church would unquestionably control the state, road and branch. Among other things it would control the municipal system. To the Gentiles of Utah this question of statehood is of no surprising importance. It is to be regretted that there are democrats who, on the pledge that Mormon senators and representatives would vote with the democracy, are disposed to favor admission. It is to be hoped that the party will not identify itself with such unpatriotic and shortsighted policy.

The Business Situation.

Although this time of year is usually marked by restricted trade, halting speculation and the business depression incidental to the close of the old year's affairs and preparations for the new, the past week has witnessed a remarkable development of confidence and activity in all municipal affairs. The promised restoration of freight rates has been accomplished to a great extent, preceded by two weeks of unprecedented heavy traffic, and followed by a well-sustained volume of business. The roads in all portions of the country are following the example of the trunk lines, and the leading railroad men have volunteered the most solemn promises that rates are to be maintained and causes of renewed warfare avoided.

Prominent Persons.

Joe Jefferson writes a card to say that he had by the present movement against foreign actors is unwise.

Secretary Endicott, after his retirement from public office, will resume his position as holder of a life insurance company in New York.

George B. McClellan, Jr., son of Little Mac, and a reporter on a New York paper, has been made an aide on the staff of Governor Hill.

One of the few remaining lineal descendants of Martha Custis Washington, living at the national capital, is a practicing physician of some local celebrity.

Thursday, for stealing \$100 from another colored man at Pittsburg, to which place Jasper has been taken for a hearing.

Mr. Williamson, the Philadelphian who has given his fortune of \$150,000 to found a mechanical training school in that city, is a bachelor and in his eighty-fifth year.

Secretary Vilas will not go to New York to preach on March 4. It is his intention to return to Madison, Wis., and to resume his practice there. Mrs. Vilas is still in poor health.

Jonny Lind's monument, to be erected in London by her husband, has just been completed in Glasgow. It is in the form of a beautiful cross, about ten feet high, cut from Swedish granite.

Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria rises all the year round at 6 in the morning, but often he is surprised by his personal attendant at an address in his writing table as early as 4 in the morning.

Judge Cooley, president of the inter-state commerce commission, has promised to deliver an address at the twelfth annual session of the New York State Bar association in January. He has announced as his subject, "The Comparative Merits of Written and Unwritten Constitutions."

Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll, among his other multifarious duties as lawyer, critic, orator, lecturer, telegraph director, and after-dinner speaker, has undertaken to run a silver mine. He is president of a company which owns and operates a mine and quartz mill in Silver City, New Mexico.

Emperor William is amusing himself according to his tastes, his last dissipation being the organization of a war game, in which a score or more of officers play, pretending to be two or three army corps, maneuvering, advancing and fighting, as though they numbered hundreds of thousands of men, to the delight of the emperor.

OMAHA BOLLED DOWN.

About eleven thousand children attend the public and private schools of Omaha. It costs just \$7 a year to educate each pupil in the public school.

Omaha has sixty-five churches and 30,000 people who go to church. The average number of passengers carried per day during the past year over the lines of the Omaha cable lines was 3,000.

The total receipts of the internal revenue office of Omaha for 1888 were \$2,633,637.30, an increase of \$163,991.67 over 1887.

Omaha's real estate transfers for 1888 (to December 29) amounted to \$14,091,387.20. Total number of miles of railroad built in Nebraska in 1888 was 437.32.

The Paris Exposition.

In a recent issue of your paper I read with interest a proposition in regard to how the state should be represented at the Paris exposition in 1889. The writer suggests the duplication of our most prominent agricultural products, corn, a triumphal arch, etc. This is the most unimpressive and unimpressive in the entire history of France, and still no nobler symbol of the great progress of our civilization than the Eiffel tower in the Missouri valley could be conceived of. While serving this purpose in an eminent degree, it would not be a most poetic tribute to the greatest epoch in French history, while teaching a lesson as well of the conquests and power of the civilization to which this epoch has contributed more than any other. The historical associations of the Eiffel tower, the monument of civilization in the Missouri valley could be conceived of. 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