

THE DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Average, 18,000. GEORGE B. TEASCHUK, Secretary of The Bee Publishing Company.

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SPEAKERSHIP SURMISES.

As the date of the meeting of congress draws nearer interest in the speakership contest will increase. It is now commanding a good deal of attention, and there is more or less surmise regarding the strength of the several candidates, the particular influences affecting the chances of each, and the probable outcome. It is represented, also, that most of the candidates are looking carefully after their fences. The only thing indicated with any degree of certainty is that when the caucus of republican congressmen meets the contest will be sharp and earnest.

It is generally agreed that the man who will at the outset show the greatest strength are Mr. Root, of Maine, and Major McKinley, of Ohio, and the belief is that they will not be very far apart. Just now the chances of the former seem the best. His leadership of the republican side of the house in the last congress, and the fact that his claim to the speakership has been so long recognized, give him a strong position in the race, and his qualifications are unquestionable. Most of the New England representatives are conceded to him, and he is understood to have the nearly solid support of New York and Pennsylvania. He is certain, therefore, to go into the caucus with a formidable backing. Mr. McKinley has been conducting a quiet campaign, and his strength, outside of Ohio, is not so well defined as that of the Maine congressman. He is expected, however, to get a considerable western support, and it is probable that the friends of some of the other candidates will go to him when they have found the chances of their candidates to be hopeless. Mr. Burrows, of Michigan, is a candidate not to be ignored. He has been carrying on an open campaign and is believed to have done some effective work. He will of course have the constant support of his own state so long as there is any hope of his being chosen, and he counts besides upon the support of the representatives from the new states, with some other help from the west. Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, is said to talk hopefully of his chances, but he does not appear to have any strength outside of his own state, and it is reported that even there he is encountering opposition. Mr. Henderson, of Iowa, is less talked of than the other four gentlemen, but he is by no means to be regarded as out of the race or as an impossible candidate.

The indications are that there is going to be more or less bargaining in connection with the speakership contest. The southern republican representatives will support no one who is not in favor of the abolition of most of the internal revenue taxes, and any candidate they support will be required to pledge himself to this policy. Very likely they will find no difficulty in getting such a pledge from most of them. It has been reported that there is to be a combined movement on the part of the manufacturers in behalf of McKinley, and if such a thing should happen it would probably do him more harm than good. As to Burrows, if it should appear, as charged, that he is the preference of the subsidy seekers, his chances would rapidly diminish. There are special influences at work affecting the chances of all these candidates, and it would be hazardous to predict the success of either of them, although it is extremely probable that one of those named will be the next speaker of the house of representatives. It will be fortunate if the one chosen shall be he who is least hampered by pledges to any special interest or to any particular policy.

THE SECRET ROLLS.

It has been the uniform practice of the pension office, at least for some years, to keep the pension rolls secret. This rule has been rigidly observed so far as the general public is concerned, but it is said that pension agents and attorneys have no difficulty in obtaining access to the rolls. It is suggested that the new commissioner would introduce an important reform and put an obstacle in the way of frauds, by abolishing the rule of secrecy and allowing the pension rolls to be open to public inspection. It is assumed that such publicity would result in eliminating from the rolls a great many persons who are drawing pensions without being entitled to them, and also to prevent other unworthy persons from going on the rolls. There is something to be said on both sides of this matter. It is conceivable that if the rolls were open to public inspection the pension office might be put to a great deal of annoyance. Not only would there be much labor involved in hunting up the names of pensioners inquired about, which would necessarily have to be done by employes of the office, as the rolls could not be safely entrusted to irresponsible outsiders, but a great deal of time would be wasted in hearing statements regarding pensioners believed by such outsiders not to be entitled to a place on the public rolls. Not only this, but it would open the door for a great deal of malicious persecution of worthy pensioners. If public inspection of the rolls were permitted as a means of detecting fraud, the logical duty of the pension office would be to investigate all allegations of fraud that might be presented to it, and it is easy to see that this might become a very annoying and embarrassing matter, both to the office and to pensioners, the worthy equally with the unworthy. Personal enmity, cloaked under a pretense of serving the public interests and the ends of justice, would have a wide field of operation. On the other hand, it is a sound principle, to be generally observed, that the people who pay to support the government should be permitted at all times, under proper circumstances, to obtain such information regarding what is being done in any department of the government as may reasonably and in good faith be demanded, the imparting of which would not be inconsistent with the public interests. The right of a citizen to expose fraud which he has found in the public services, or to indicate to the proper authorities where he

believes fraud may be found, is not questionable. But it will not be contended that it would be wise or expedient to throw open the books of the treasury, or the accounts and official papers of any department or bureau of the government, to the promiscuous inspection of everybody who should fancy that something wrong had been done, or that fraud was being perpetrated. It is quite possible that to open the pension rolls to public inspection would result in freeing it of some pensioners who have no right to be there and operate as a safeguard against fraud and abuses, but such objections to doing so as we have noted are sufficiently serious as to be worthy of careful consideration. As it is, any one who believes a pensioner to have fraudulently obtained his pension can readily bring the matter to the attention of the pension officials. A better proposal than that of opening the rolls to public inspection is that of publishing the full list of pensioners at least once a year. That would devolve on the pension office no additional labor that would be either annoying or embarrassing, and would be less liable to subject worthy pensioners to malicious persecution.

WHY WE OBJECT TO COBURN.

The question has been asked why THE BEE refuses to endorse the candidacy of William Coburn. Our objections to Mr. Coburn may be briefly stated. Mr. Coburn has held the office of sheriff during two terms, and it is decidedly bad taste for him to insist that he should be given a third term when no one else has ever held the office of sheriff for more than two terms. If Coburn is to be given three terms, why not four or five, or why should he not hold the office for life? We object to Coburn because he has persisted in holding two offices at the same time. He has used his position as sheriff to keep machine politicians in the school board and demoralize the whole school system by interfering with teachers and janitors as his partisans to keep him in the two offices.

ON THE SIDE.

Mr. Feister's crank organ is in favor of Adam Heintzel and George Snyder. With Pat Ford in the role of Rip Van Winkle, the democratic candidate for county treasurer would naturally follow Rip as my old Schneider.

Adam Snyder is banking on the Irish vote which he has promised to deliver to him. When Adam went into the banking business Pat promised to deliver him some heavy dividends, but when the bank closed Adam's dividends were on the other side of the ledger.

By hoodluming the train boys the Omaha double-header has been able to force a few copies of its penny whistle sheet upon travelers who call for The Bee and could not get it. But the exposure of its inexcusable conduct has cut short the contraband trade in second hand news.

It is rather amusing how anxious every peepin' and adventurer who happens to have control of an Omaha daily assumes that he is in the way of THE BEE and doing it up. If the slightest notice is taken of these newspaper wretches they at once exclaim, "You see, this is the only way in which we are doing it; it is losing ground and presently will be on its last legs." If, for instance, THE BEE should remark that Mr. Hitchcock is making an ass of himself on every conceivable occasion his cry graphophone cries in baby accents, "Poor Rosewater! We knew they would be here with their cracked goosebumps, their uskrat nests, wet summer, jumping chipmunks and sun spots. They predict a cold, winter, an open winter, a wet winter, a snowy winter, a dismal winter. What comfortable, self-contained fellows these weather prophets are."

Chicago a Neck Ahead.

Chicago is making a neck in the race for the world's fair, St. Louis is a far second and New York a bad third, while Washington is certain to be distanced in the first heat. The race promises to develop into what the horse editors call a "procession" long before the homestretch is reached on the final heat.

They Off to a Variety.

They have come, the happy, careless, wigging prophets. We knew they would be here with their cracked goosebumps, their uskrat nests, wet summer, jumping chipmunks and sun spots. They predict a cold, winter, an open winter, a wet winter, a snowy winter, a dismal winter. What comfortable, self-contained fellows these weather prophets are.

Prohibition Which Never Prohibits.

"Between a well regulated license system," says the New York World, "and bogus prohibition for prohibition never prohibits every intelligent lover of law and morality must choose the former." This is the argument in a nutshell. There is a difference of opinion as to the right of the state to prohibit the sale of liquor, but in the light of the records there ought to be none as to the inefficiency of prohibition as a total or even a partial remedy.

A Job Lot of Boul'gers.

"Billy Maloney," says the Courier-Journal, "is the Boul'ger of the South." The Times Democrat says that Blanch C. Bruce is the Boul'ger of Mississippi. We have several opinions that the Hon. James G. Blaine was the Boul'ger of America. Yet, though each of these gentlemen is either an adventurer or a demagogue, none of them can be justly called a Boul'ger. The most distinguishing characteristics of Boul'gers seem to have been a striking lack of intellectual quality, absorption in his own interests and a ludicrous self-conceit.

Farnam Will Own the Town.

It is gravely suggested that the newly chosen lord mayor of London should avail himself of Blenheim's circus performers and menagerie for the annual civic pageant. On very moderate terms the famous American showman would furnish a circus of elephants, circus riders, horses, elephants, carnivorous beasts, camels, deer and other animals that he has under his management, and the sight would be the most extraordinary witnessed in the London streets within the history of the mayoralty. London, of course, would welcome the spectacle.

Not of Recent Origin.

THE OMAHA BEE is recovering a newsworthy combine which has been in existence for some time to the prejudice of THE BEE. According to this expose the boys push the doing so of that paper which will pay for the doing so. It is safe to say that this corruption is not of recent origin. The exposure made by

and continue the practice of polygamy uncollected by territorial authority. Governor Woffey, in his annual report to the secretary of the interior, calls attention to this point and urges that congress be asked to grant relief by annulling the repealing act. The power lies with congress, and unless action is taken on the line indicated there is grave danger that the Mormon law-breakers will secure a firm foothold in the territory.

The extension of the Union Pacific's Oregon line to Spokane Falls opens a new and rich trade territory to the jobbers of Omaha. The business of that section is now monopolized by St. Paul, Portland and San Francisco jobbers. There is no reason why our merchants cannot divide this trade, now that direct communication is established. Eastern Washington ranks high as an agricultural and mineral country. Its resources are unlimited, and with the influx of settlers now going on will treble in population in a few years. The construction of an independent railroad north from Spokane Falls to Colville opens to settlement a score of fertile valleys up to the boundary of British Columbia, and will hasten the development of the mineral wealth that abounds on the western slope of the Bitter Root mountains. The forests of timber in that section will afford a valuable medium of exchange for eastern products. This new field is certainly an inviting one, and can be successfully worked for trade by our jobbers with the assistance of the Union Pacific.

The example of the property owners on West Leavenworth street in donating a strip of ground to the city for park purposes is commendable. It is a strong hint to other large property owners to take advantage of the benefits which park improvement will confer on the surrounding property.

IDAHO will ratify the proposed state constitution next month and apply for admission into the union. It is not likely that congress will give much attention to the request. The mountain-locked territory must grow up with the country before its claims can be seriously considered.

THE special act under which the reservation is opened to settlement does not recognize the pre-emption or tree claim laws, and maintains under the "final" or "final" homestead law, and then charges the homesteader 50 cents per acre. In other words, a settler must actually live on the claim five years and pay 50 cents per acre before acquiring title to his land, and can then only acquire 160 acres. With the old law, your correspondent expects to see Nebraska get her full quota of homesteaders, just the same as though no Indian claim had been opened to settlement.

However, the opening of this reservation will have this effect: It will allow the Chicago & Northwestern, the Chicago & Great Northern, the Chicago & St. Paul, and the Chicago & Rock Island to build roads to the Black Hills from Chamberlain and Chicago & Northwestern, if it thinks necessary, from Pierre. It will place the territory west of Pierre in the hands of the Chicago & Northwestern, which Omaha is beginning to get a hold, a little further from Omaha and nearer Chicago. If both roads converge at Rapid City it will not long before the city will be a jobbing city, so Omaha's detriment. The live stock that was beginning to find its way to the South Omaha yards will surely go by the "long haul," and Chicago will get it, as heretofore. The tin and other minerals we read so much nowadays will find their way to the Missouri river, several hundred miles north of the Gate City, and your correspondent fails to find anything in the opening of that reservation that would do any harm to Omaha, or in fact any part of Nebraska. Another competitor soon for the traffic of Nebraska, and the Chicago & St. Paul, and the Black Hills trade, is the Sioux City & Ogden, which, nothing daunted by its recent bridge trouble at Sioux City, is pushing its claim with its work.

While one at a distance can see all this, he does not feel like offering any advice or suggestions, but humbly places the matter before the citizens of an enterprising city, doubting not the ability of its capitalists and business men to successfully meet and overcome all obstacles that stand in the way of the material growth and prosperity of their city, Omaha. X. X. X.

A Ghent Colt Dead.

EL RIO RIVER succumbed to an Attack of Pneumonia. NEW YORK, Oct. 22.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—