

THE DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER Editor.

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THE COMMERCIAL CONGRESS.

Twenty-four states and territories were represented at the opening of the commercial congress at Kansas City yesterday.

The most interesting event of the day was the reading of a letter from President Harrison, in which reference was made to some of the more important questions which the congress was called to discuss.

This communication is interesting as disclosing the present views of the president regarding the home market, reciprocity and silver.

The president makes very plain his continued conviction that the first interest of the American people, and particularly of the agricultural class, is to maintain unimpaired their home market, and he states his reasons in a way which cannot fail to command the attention of those to whom they are particularly addressed.

He agrees with the farmers that the prices of farm products have been too low, but he makes the incisive point that the plea involves the concession that other things may be too cheap—a coat as well as corn—and suggests that the farmer who claims a good living profit for his work should concede the same to every other man and woman who toils.

It is presumed that every intelligent farmer will admit the force of this, which is particularly pertinent at this time, when the products of agriculture have advanced to a profitable point and are still moving upward, while the products of nearly every department of manufacture are not appreciably higher than heretofore, and some are continually lower in price.

An effort has been made recently to impress the public with the idea that President Harrison had lost sympathy with the reciprocity policy instituted under his administration.

The postponement of negotiations with the Canadian commissioners was tortured into evidence that the president had determined to call a halt, and of course the ready inference was drawn that he was prompted to this by jealousy of the growing popularity of Mr. Blaine.

The letter of President Harrison to the commercial congress is a sufficient refutation of all such suggestions. It shows that he is as warmly interested as ever in the subject of reciprocity with the countries south of us, and the fact that he does not refer to the contemplated negotiations with Canada does not in the least militate against the sincerity of his expressed confidence regarding reciprocity.

It is highly probable that neither he nor the secretary of state has any strong expectation of being able to effect a satisfactory treaty with Canada, but in any event, he was not called upon to refer to the matter. President Harrison undoubtedly believes as fully now as he has done at any time in the necessity of larger markets for the products of the country, and his assurance that "no effort and none of the powers vested in the executive will be left unused to secure the end which is so desirable," will be faithfully carried out.

As to silver the views of the president have undergone no change since he last addressed congress on the subject. He is in favor of using all the silver in the currency that can be used without disturbing the parity of the gold and silver dollar in their relations to commerce.

While he makes no distinct reference to the question of free coinage, what he says offers no encouragement to the advocates of that policy.

A PROMISING BEGINNING. The postal subsidy law is beginning to bear fruit. The announcement is made that the Inman and International steamship company will soon begin the construction of two, and possibly four, first class trans-Atlantic steamships, to cost not less than \$2,000,000 each, and to equal, if not excel, anything afloat in point of speed, power, capacity, and all modern improvements.

The steamers now owned and sailed by this company were built abroad and sail under a foreign flag, but those to be built will be constructed in American shipyards, and will be built, officered and manned in conformity with the postal subsidy law passed by the last congress with the design of encouraging American shipbuilding.

That law clearly defines the conditions under which the postmaster general may make contracts with steamship companies for a term of years to carry the mails between the United States and foreign ports, and states the maximum compensation which can be paid for that service.

The conditions are such as will secure the best vessels in the several classes specified that modern skill in shipbuilding can produce, and the compensation provided for is sufficiently liberal to warrant the investment of capital in steamships if the government will enter into a contract for a period of 10 years, as allowed by the law.

It is the duty of the postmaster general to make contracts for carrying the mails, and he has been in consultation with the several steamship companies since the postal subsidy law was enacted for the purpose of ascertaining what may be accomplished under its provisions. Mr. Wanamaker strongly advocated the law, and it is reasonably expected that he will give it the most liberal construction possible in order to make it effective.

He will very likely find it necessary to offer as an inducement to the construction of new steamships all that the bill provides for. It is not to be expected that existing companies, or other capitalists who might invest in ships, would be satisfied with less than the maximum compensation and the longest contract period allowed by the law. As a practical business man the postmaster general undoubtedly appreciates this, and it is therefore probable that he will not hesitate to accept propositions for contracts on this basis with companies that will construct new steamships. Under such an arrangement the cost of the ocean mail service would be considerably increased, but the advantages gained would be in more direct and expeditious communication and in the enlargement of trade that would inevitably result. No one intelligently informed in the matter will question that with the extension of the foreign commerce of the country must come an enlargement of international mail facilities, and it is of the highest

Importance to determine whether these

will be secured with American ships or with foreign built vessels sailing under foreign flags.

The indications are very favorable that the postal subsidy law will result in giving the country several new steamship lines within the next two years, and adding to those now in existence. If this promise shall be realized the time may not be far distant when the United States will have a merchant marine unsurpassed by that of any other nation, and carrying the stars and stripes into every commercial port of the world.

WAREHOUSES, FARMERS AND DEALERS. While the new warehouse law will be of special value to Omaha as the natural center of the grain and other warehouse business of Nebraska, it is likewise a very great benefit to the farmers and dealers of the rural districts.

Hitherto the farmer was at the mercy of the elevator men. The dealer and owner of the elevator was immediately dependent upon his correspondent or commission firm in Chicago. The market for each day was regulated in the city by the lakes.

If the farmer did not care to accept the price offered for his grain at his local town on the day he brought it to market, he had the privilege of hauling it back home. Under the new law he stores it in the elevator, receipts for the grain and can either return to the farm with his receipts or obtain money on them at the local bank at the ruling rate of interest.

When the price suits him he sells and takes up his bank notes. Meanwhile he has had the use of the money and yet has not sacrificed his grain, as usual, of course, that he has stored his grain on a rising market. His judgment must be exercised as to the probabilities of a rise or fall in the market and he will sell outright or store the grain accordingly. The expense of holding his grain in the elevator for a satisfactory market will be the storage charge, and if his harvest money on the receipts, the interest at the bank, both of which are fixed by law. If the farmer needs money his warehouse receipts are good for it. If not, they are good for the value of the grain in storage.

The local buyer is likewise able to handle his own grain by forwarding the surplus to Omaha or some other center and receiving receipts upon which he can realize, waiting for a satisfactory market before directing a sale. He is close to the market and the Omaha price will be little if any lower than Chicago.

The speculator will naturally make the central market his headquarters and buy or sell here as he thinks it to his advantage to do one or the other. The interchange of receipts for grain takes largely the place of actual transfers and gives to all parties, from the producer to the speculator at the central market, the benefit of the margins which hitherto were chiefly advantageous to the members of the board of trade in Chicago and their speculative customers.

It is not a bucket shop business. It is a trade in credits, having behind them the values they represent. The warehouse is merely the convenient storage place of the property. The receipt shows precisely where that property is. It is as legitimate a representative of value as a negotiable instrument of any other kind and is as good as a bank note.

In this article nothing is said of the details of the law for protecting all concerned from fraud, for grading and inspecting the grain or for the length of time the warehouseman must retain the grain before he can force a sale. These are amply provided for, so that duplicate receipts, defalcations or other possible evils of the business are prevented so far as prevention is practicable.

EX-PRESIDENT CLEVELAND appears to be growing pessimistic. His speech at the dinner in commemoration of the birthday of Thomas Jefferson was not altogether in that cheerful spirit and hopeful tone which have marked his previous utterances. His intimation that the democratic party is blind to danger and neglectful of party organization and discipline shows that the results of the spring elections have not impressed him favorably. But more significant than anything else was the declaration of Mr. Cleveland that "we tempt humiliating failure and disgrace when we encourage those who, claiming fellowship with us, needlessly and from the worst of motives seek to stir up strife in the councils of our party." Who can he have had in mind when he uttered this warning? If he referred to all those democrats who since his anti-silver letter have proclaimed that he is an impossible candidate in 1892 the number is so great that to exclude them from the councils of the party would not merely involve defeat, it would insure it. Scores of leaders and tens of thousands of the rank and file of the democracy have shown a most pronounced disposition to stir up strife since Mr. Cleveland last publicly announced his hostility to silver, and unless all signs are misleading he will find this element in the party a very potent influence in the next democratic national convention. The ex-president has reason to regard the outlook with some anxiety.

THE Omaha board of trade is at work. It appreciates the situation. A committee of five will be selected to take steps preliminary to the opening of a grain exchange and report upon the number and character of warehouses in the city.

THE purpose of the board is to be ready for exchange business August 1. As the date named is as early as can reasonably be designated for beginning business, it is therefore probable that he will not hesitate to accept propositions for contracts on this basis with companies that will construct new steamships. Under such an arrangement the cost of the ocean mail service would be considerably increased, but the advantages gained would be in more direct and expeditious communication and in the enlargement of trade that would inevitably result.

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passed by. Political service should not

be the test of fitness. Some young attorney with a pride in his profession, possessing a good reputation for sobriety, industry and ability can be found and should be found for city prosecutor.

The work to be performed by the city prosecutor is far more important than the salary would indicate. The misdemeanors and crimes committed in Omaha will be reduced in inverse ratio to the zeal, energy and ability with which this officer performs his duty. It is confidently hoped that Mayor Cushing appreciates the fact that a worthless, besotted or conscienceless city prosecutor can make Omaha a paradise for the vagrant, the thief, the burglar and the peace-disturber.

"THE gleeful announcement is made that Omaha's board of trade has paid \$400 for a page advertisement in the Arkansas Traveler, if this announcement were merely a bit of humor originating in the jocular brain of the editor of that comic paper it would be decidedly amusing, but it is given out as a fact, and THE BEE, without in the least reflecting upon the general excellence of the jocular anecdotes of the weekly periodical named, cannot refrain from ridiculing the idea of attempting to advance the business interests of this city by inserting a paid advertisement in a journal famous alone because it makes its readers laugh. It would be just about as reasonable for this city to put the cap and bells on a clown and paint Omaha in huge letters on his back and send him around with a circus. In fact this would be more effective if not more dignified.

"The city council should adopt a garbage ordinance which shall not afford the garbage-master an opportunity to get rich at the expense of taxpayers or other because of large payments from the city treasury direct or by blackmailing property holders. The contract for the removal of garbage should be drawn in the interest of the people and to prevent the accumulation of disease-breeding filth and not for the benefit of a ward politician as a reward for more or less questionable political service.

"The statement is made that the Metropolitan street railway company and the Ballou electric light company will make another effort to secure franchises from the city. If this be so, the council ought to be decent enough to be sincere and honest in their treatment of both organizations.

"The real estate exchange should take steps to carry out the idea of an organization of the real estate owners into an association for the advancement of the interests of Omaha. The dealers and agents alone cannot do everything.

OMAHA is a trifle indifferent about making herself known in the east. The advertising committee appointed by the business men's meeting a month ago seems to be stuck in the mud somewhere.

WHEN business men present a business-like proposition to the city it is entitled to a careful, candid and honest consideration at the hands of the city government.

If the street car company would publicly announce the new transfers conceded its patrons, it might obtain more thanks and more transfers.

THE review of the charter amendments published on this page is worthy of the careful perusal of every citizen and taxpayer of the city.

ESSAYS on the topic "What shall be done with the court house?" now have a chance for consideration.

MEMBERS of the city council will take notice that no proposition to vote boodle bonds will carry.

It's Possible. At a pinch we can get on without diplomatic relations with Italy.

Getting Less Provincial. A Boston girl who is now in Paris became engaged while in Germany to a Danish gentleman who is in business in China, where they will live. So the world goes on growing less and less provincial.

Italy's Valuable Experience. Washington City. Italy has gone through a valuable experience recently, if she will only profit by it. Indeed, she has poured out her resonant vocables of wrath in vain, if the inevitable conflict has not saturated her florid, perfervid soul with the wisdom of the cold, hard, irrefragable Yankee dictum that da mona da mare go.

Depow on "Contrasts." Chauncey M. Depow delivered a lecture to a crowded house in New York Monday on "Contrasts." It is presumed the title was suggested by a survey of the steam heating apparatus now used on passenger trains of his railroad in lieu of the stoves which, before his indictment, he declared were inefficient and the only practicable means of heating cars.

Money Making in Vermont. The poor Swedes who were induced to settle in the desolate and sterile fastnesses of remote Vermont with the idea that they somehow could live where the original settlers had been started out are getting away as fast as their friends can send them the money to travel with. The only way to live in Vermont is to loan money to western farmers and subsist on the interest.

If They Only Could. Senator McHale's unbounded admiration for the old style of ruffled waistcoats is proper and legitimate enough as a matter of private judgment, but the great majority of people will still believe that "beauty unadorned is adorned the most." The knickerbocker style of undergarment must go, however, if the house of representatives can be made to see things as the senate has seen 'em.

One Flag, One Policy. The United States flag covers United States territory. No other flag and no other policy can exist within the jurisdiction of the United States. The foreign flag and foreign policy is to government that have been floated before Americans lately have no place in our system. This is a free country, but it is a country and not a chaos. The sooner the fact is recognized by certain people residing

in the republic the better for all concerned.

American sentiment is broad, just and tolerant; it is slow to formulate itself against even license, but when it does so formulate itself it is well for those who disturb the public quiet here to beware.

It Generally Does. New York World. Whichever way the question of Anna Dickinson's alleged insanity is decided it will no doubt develop the usual number of insane cures which have no more sense than they should have.

PASSING JENTS. Drake's Magazine: It doesn't seem to make a miller dyspeptic to bolt his meals, but that's because he's got the thing down fine, probably.

Atchison Globe: If you want to sink money got into the swine. St. Joseph News: When a horse rears it is very much alive even if it does seem to be on its last legs.

Buffalo Express: When you can get close enough to a frog to poke him with a stick that's a sign of spring. Binghamton Republican: After us we have called a man a fool it always pleases us to have him get mad and prove it.

Boston Bulletin: A boy whose leg was repaired in New York by grafting some skin from a dog complains now that his skin barks easily. Buffalo Commercial: The piano makers have decided on uniform scales. The banjo fraternity should take the question up next.

HER STRONG POINT. Washington Post. Said the lad in his painful and penitent woe, "My mother, I'm sure, naught of poker can know. But she's wonderful on a pat hand."

Sun: "That was a sympathetic audience I had," said the lecturer. "Yes, I thought they all seemed sorry for each other," said his bosom friend.

Pittsburg Leader: The grip gives many a decent man a chance to dose himself with whisky and quinine, with the quinine largely in the minority. Texas Siftings: Profound Son—I come to you with a heavy heart. Profound's Father—And a light pocket-book. I know all about that. How much do you need now?

Somerville Journal: It is hard on a man to have his beard shaved off for fun, just to see if his friends will recognize him, and then to be bitten by his own dog at the front gate when he comes home to tea. London Tid-Bits: Ethel—Oh, at last! It has been years. Alphonse—Since I saw you. Alphonse—Oh, my own Ethel, it has been centuries.

Ethel's father (in the library)—Mary Jane, who was that you just let her go? Mary Jane—It was Mr. Cummins, sir. Ethel's father—Great guns! This is the first time I have seen her this week. He might as well live here.

"Jones is an intelligent man," said Brown. "Yes," replied Simpson, "and if he only had a great forehead as he has a nose, what an intelligent face he would have."

Critic: When last heard from the official count was engaged in a collar-and-elbow tussle with the Chicago election returns. The official count has the sympathy of the country.

New York Recorder: The Carrollton, Ga., farmer who recently found three live frogs in the hollow of a sound tree that he was chopping has just joined a temperance society, and his friends have hope of his entire recovery.

"Loft Alone With a Tiger" is the title of a new story. The tiger and a man are described as being "in the midst of an Indian jungle" in the early chapters. Later on the man is described as being in the tiger's midst.

New York Recorder: If the carriage of the future will be hitched to a star, as the poet predicts, the cabman of the future will be even fiercer than he is now, and is this right?

If the life insurance agent, whose business it is to make you believe the next hour will be your last, should trade places with the life insurance doctor who examines you, the life insurance business would last.

OMAHA'S DOCTORS. They Elect Officers and Resolve Something. At the annual meeting of the Omaha Medical society, held in the cafe of the Paxton hotel last night, officers were elected for the ensuing year thus: President, Dr. B. F. Gummer; vice president, Dr. D. C. Bryant; secretary, Dr. J. P. Lord; treasurer, Dr. S. K. Spaulding.

After the election the society listened to the reading of a paper on "Sarcoma of the Choroid, with two cases," by Dr. D. C. Bryant. The paper was discussed briefly by the other members of the society. On motion of Dr. Gaper the delegates to the meeting of the American Medical association, to be held at Washington, D. C., were invited to invite the association to meet in Omaha in 1892.

SHE WAS HIS FAVORITE PUPIL.

Schoolmaster Book Leaves His Family to Elope with a Young Girl. SOMEWHAT MIXED SHOOTING SCRAPE. Mrs. Edney Claims that She Was Swindled—Trying to Save Haun's Skin from the Gallows—Lincoln News.

LINCOLN, Neb., April 14.—[Special to THE BEE]. Mr. C. Vanhook of Sprague was in the city today and his version of the elopement from that place puts a more serious aspect to the affair. He says that in place of its being a case where true love was not allowed to run smoothly because of parental interference it proves to be a story of illicit love and no marriage license would cover this case.

Bar Beck, the man in the case, has been employed as school teacher in Sprague, which is situated about fifteen miles southwest of Lincoln. He is a man about thirty years of age, not at all prepossessing, and is a married man with three small children and a wife, whom he left behind him in his flight. Among the scholars in attendance at his school was Mary Zimmerman, a young woman of about eighteen, whom Beck seemed to greatly favor. He had her attention, and his advances were met with an affection that appeared to be mutual. There was considerable talk about the attentions paid by Beck, but no thought that an elopement would be the result.

One day last week Beck shipped a bundle of clothing, two boxes and a sack to Marysville, Kan., consigned to D. Fisher. This was the preliminary step, and last Sunday evening he met by appointment Miss Zimmerman, who had the baggage at her respectable farmer home near Sprague. To add to his other crimes he stole a pair of boots from C. Vanhook Brothers, merchants of Sprague, and started off on his road for Lincoln, but evidently doubled on his pursues and headed for Marysville, Kan. Zimmerman was a girl, which was placed in the spring wagon and off they went. Their flight was discovered through the kindness of a neighbor, who saw the couple at other points. An attempt at pursuit was made that night, but given up. Yesterday the entire household was aroused by a knock now Vanhook intends going to Marysville, Kan.

Sherriff McClary is sending out postal cards offering \$25 reward for Beck's arrest. Mr. E. Bullock, a farmer living north of West Lincoln, has caused the arrest of a neighboring Switzer on the charge of shooting with intent to kill. Switzer was out on \$500 bonds to appear for trial Friday at 10 a. m. According to Switzer's story, Bullock has a lot of cats and a dog, and his disposition whose chief aim in life appears to be to squat on Switzer's land. Switzer says he has asked Bullock to keep the cattle penned up, and that he has done so. Switzer says that Bullock promised to see that the four-foot animals stayed at home. Yesterday Switzer discovered Bullock's cat trampling over his land. His anger arose and he told his boys to corral the cattle, and this time to keep them locked up. Switzer says that the dogs and boys were engaged in herding the cattle towards their corral when Bullock came in sight, and gave chase after the youngsters.

About this time Switzer came over the hill and yelled at Bullock not to chase the boys. Switzer had a gun in his hand, which he showed at police station last night he had taken out for the purpose of shooting Bullock's dog, in return for the latter's cattle trespassing. He walked up to Bullock and according to Switzer's story, he told him he was tired of having the cattle run over his land, and this time he would have to cash up. Bullock retorted by yelling, "Hiaw! Hiaw!" and then he picked up a large-sized rock and Switzer, who was standing about four feet away, struck at him with the gun. Bullock dodged, and the muzzle of the pistol was directed back of the neck, inflicting a slight, but painful wound. Bullock had a friend with him, and he took the pistol and threw it. Switzer told the story with a variation from that related by Switzer. They claim that without any provocation Switzer deliberately leveled the gun at Bullock and fired. The presence of mind of the latter in dodging being the only thing that saved him. Dr. Haggard dressed the wound and Bullock went after a warrant. His story is considered rather true, however, as the gun was loaded when brought in by Bullock and the inside of the gun was rusted.

CLAIMS SHE WAS SWINDLED. Judge Tibbets and a jury are now engaged in a suit involving a considerable amount of money and also the reputation of a former Lincolnite. The suit is one where Gertrude E. Edney, vice president of the Omaha, administrator of the estate of James Edney, deceased, sue James E. Baum and brothers to recover \$2,750. James T. Edney was formerly a leading hardware merchant of Omaha, and died in May, 1888. Baum Brothers were then in business in Lincoln, and James E., shortly after Edney's death, made a proposition to the widow, who in part payment for the stock left on her hands some real estate he had in Lincoln. She considered the offer a good one, and she traded her 100 lots in the southwest part of the city in Cottage park addition which, she says, he represented to her were worth \$200,000. She also traded her stock in the city to be located near by, and would greatly enhance the property's value. She asked for a receipt, but he said that he had to go to California that day, and told her that she could take his word that he had told her the truth. She says she afterwards found out that when he took her to see the farm he drove her through the addition, but did not call her attention to it, being engaged in singing the praises of the farm. She says that the lots are not worth \$200,000, and that no steel car works ever erected, that the lots are partially covered at times with overgrown weeds, and that