

THE DAILY BEE.

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COLONEL SAM BRASS of Juniata can now renounce his democracy and renew his cordial relations with the independents.

OMAHA citizens should look into the plan of the Chicago wigwag with the idea of erecting a structure similar in this city for coming conventions.

SEVERAL members of the Iowa legislature are quite anxious for congressional honors and this fact has a tendency to prolong debate upon the liquor question...

YOUNG MR. BRYAN is a politician, not a statesman. This explains why he does nothing for his constituents locally but devotes his time and his tongue to discussing the democratic side of the issues...

INASMUCH as the Board of Education has been erecting but two school buildings in the last few months, it would seem to have been altogether possible for the building department of the board to have given both buildings very close attention.

THE charges against the Yellowstone National Park association in its management of hotel and stage coach privileges will doubtless be made the pretext for a junket of a special committee to the park next summer ostensibly for the purpose of investigation.

SENATOR HILL will go on a hippodroming tour of the south in a few days in order to stimulate his presidential boom. He will not go hunting for ducks in the Louisiana swamps, however. He is too good a sportsman to be satisfied with duck shooting after his exciting experiences in the Tammany tiger jungles.

THE sad fate of young Olesen, the boy who fell under the cars on the Belt line, should be a warning to the lads in all parts of the city who persist in jumping on and off moving trains. It should also stimulate the police force to extra exertions in the enforcement of the city ordinances prohibiting persons from boarding moving railroad trains.

THE absurdity of jury trials of cases involving property rights has been well illustrated the present term of court in two cases brought for damages against the city of Omaha. The real damages were practically the same to both plaintiffs, yet one jury found damages amounting to \$2,300 in one case and another jury only \$600 in the other.

COUNCILMAN TUTTLE is said to feel very much grieved because the grand jury has only indicted democratic members and ex-members of the boodle council. We apprehend that politics had very little to do with the action of the grand jury. The fact is Mr. Tuttle was not indicted because he was a democrat, but because he has violated the plain mandate of the charter.

THE Chicago Tribune publishes six columns of matter containing the names of farmers and the value of their possessions in Illinois. County after county is cited to show where from fifty to 100 farmers are worth from \$50,000 to \$100,000 each and some are rated at \$500,000. An investigation among Nebraska farmers might not produce such surprises as in Illinois, but it would effectually crack the shell of that insufferable calumny chestnut which represents western agriculturists as "paupers." Every old settler in Nebraska has its wealthy farmers, not gentlemen farmers who commenced operations with large capital, but thrifty tillers who began with homesteads in sod houses or log cabins and who now enjoy all the comforts of a competency.

THE time has come when a city electrician is a necessity, and the council will do well to enact an ordinance for such an officer. The present inspector of lights can be kept comfortably busy looking after gas and gasoline lamps. The electrician should be an expert in electrical matters and the electrical department should be as carefully conducted as that of plumbing. Indeed there is more danger from defective electrical work than from defective plumbing. Extensive conflagrations and danger to human life may be prevented by the proper devotion of an officer of this character to his duties. Dead wires should be removed, electrical plants regularly inspected, and electric lights rigorously tested. A good electrician can be of inestimable service to Omaha.

THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM.

Just before his departure for Europe Secretary Foster submitted some recommendations in connection with the immigration problem which appear to have caused anxiety among English ship-owners and emigration agents. The recommendation attributed to the secretary that caused the greatest concern abroad was that proposing that each steamship company engaged in the foreign passenger transportation to this country should be required to file with the proper officers of the department a bond in a sum not less than \$50,000, which will return all immigrants who shall within two years prove to belong to the prohibited classes to the country from which those immigrants came to the United States.

Secretary Foster reached London on Wednesday, and according to a dispatch stated to a representative of the Associated Press that the bond proposal was not his, and he agreed with the objection of the British vessel owners that the proposed bond is impracticable. He did, however, according to the same source of information, recommend more air space in the steamers, and also that the existing head tax of 50 cents on each immigrant be abolished, and that the steamship companies be required to pay to the United States a license tax of \$1 for every immigrant brought by them from any European port to the United States, such tax to be devoted to the use of the immigration inspection bureau.

Replying to the objection that this would involve increased passage rates, Secretary Foster said that would mean a better class of emigrants; to the exclusion of the pauper element. It is desirable to limit the tramp steamer traffic, and in the opinion of the secretary the requirement of more air space and the imposition of the proposed tax would have this result.

Senator Chandler, chairman of the senate committee on immigration, discusses methods of restricting immigration in the March number of the Forum. He thinks a rigid enforcement of existing laws, not only in our seaports but along the Canadian border, may result in quieting the alarm and averting the dangers from bad immigration and in satisfying our people of the sufficiency of our present rules of exclusion. Heavier responsibilities should be placed upon the steamship companies. Laws and regulations should be so framed and enforced that before long it may appear that no immigrants will have to be sent back, for the simple and satisfactory reason that the steamship companies will not dare to bring any about whose right to admission there is the slightest doubt. Senator Chandler also favors a law increasing the number of cubic feet of space on each steamship for each immigrant, and he expresses the opinion that there ought not to be any objection to allowing persons intending to come to the United States to prove to the satisfaction of our consuls or special officials abroad that our laws do not prohibit their immigration, and to obtain certificates accordingly. If the voluntary certificate system after an adequate trial works satisfactorily, it can be made compulsory if necessary. Heavy responsibility of steamship companies, says Senator Chandler, certifies abroad if asked for, and strict inspection on this side of the water, will make almost impossible the evasions practiced at the present time.

The discussion of the immigration problem is at last proceeding in a practical direction. Sentiment regarding it prompted by selfishness or prejudice is no longer largely influential with intelligent men. There is consequently good reason to expect that whatever further legislation may be had relating to immigration will be designed to secure a more complete and efficient enforcement of existing regulations instead of erecting new barriers to exclude desirable persons.

COUNTING A QUORUM. After all that the democrats have said during the past two years in denunciation of the rule of the house of representatives of the Fifty-first congress authorizing the speaker to count non-voters present in order to make a quorum, the decision of the supreme court affirming the validity of the rule is one of the most discomfiting blows the democracy has received in recent years. The course of Speaker Reed in this particular was made a party shibboleth by the democrats. On the floor of the house, in the party organs and up and down the country they declared it to be a usurpation of power in gross violation of the constitutional rights of the minority. It was proclaimed to be a revolutionary departure, menacing the permanence of republican institutions.

The decision of the supreme court sweeps all this away and leaves not a vestige of reason for objection to the rule on constitutional grounds. The constitution provides that each house may determine the rules of its procedure. It also provides that a majority of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business. In other words, said the court, "when a majority are present the house is in a position to do business. Its capacity to transact business is then established, created by the mere presence of a majority, and does not depend upon the disposition or assent or action of any single member or fraction of the majority present. All that the constitution requires is the presence of a majority, and when that majority is present the power of the house arises. The constitution has prescribed no method of ascertaining the presence of a majority, and it is therefore clearly within the competency of the house to prescribe any method that shall be reasonably certain to ascertain the fact." Such a method was that adopted and successfully carried out by the house of representatives of the Fifty-first congress.

The decision is important. It gives a meaning and force which it has lacked until now to the provision of the constitution allowing less than a majority of the house of representatives to compel the presence of absent members. It is a fatal blow to the power hitherto exercised by an obstructive minority, and will put an end to a form of filibustering that prevailed for many years and was the most difficult to deal with. It asserts the vital principles of the right of the majority to rule. The present house rejected the quorum rule of its predecessor, as it was bound to do out of respect for the attitude of the democratic minority in the Fifty-first congress, but it is not to be doubted that the next republican house elected will restore the rule, and that it will then become a permanent part of our parliamentary practice, not only in congress, but in the state legislatures.

The vindication of ex-Speaker Reed, who formulated the quorum rule and courageously enforced it, is complete, the supreme court being unanimous in affirming the validity of the rule. A BACKSLIDER ON REFORM. Thomas Tuttle has been a greater disappointment to the people by his career in the city council than any man who has ever served in that body. Mr. Tuttle was supported by the best elements of the most respectable ward of the city. He was elected as a check to corruption and jobbery in the council. The Fourth ward is republican by a decisive majority, but several hundred republicans voted for Mr. Tuttle although they knew him to be a democrat. When he came into the council he was very loud in his denunciations of hoodlars and promised to go through the city hall job from the foundation to the roof. He was placed on the committee on public property and buildings and had a splendid opportunity to unearthen and expose the dishonest methods by which thousands of dollars had been squandered on that building and the rank favoritism shown in the letting of contracts and selection of materials. Did Tuttle redeem his pledges? On the contrary he joined the ringsters and plotters and worked his silicon plaster on to the walls after the contract had been let for another material. He not only introduced silicon into the city hall but made trades to have it introduced into the public school buildings. His record in the council has laid him open to the suspicion of venality and rascality. He was a warm supporter of the Ketchum furniture deal and other deals more or less unsavory. Considering all things and in view of the fact that he is a rank backslider on the issues made in his election, Tuttle has been treated very leniently. He ought to have been compelled to resign at the end of the first year of his term.

THE CITY HALL ROTUNDA. The council is right in voting to finish the city hall rotunda in marble. It would be absurd to expend \$450,000 on a handsome public building and then spoil its whole effect by a cheap hallway and entrance. It is better to do the work now and to do it right than to do a false economy to have the rotunda an eyesore to the community. Eventually public sentiment would compel the city government to give the building the appropriate finish proposed, and the work will be done in better style and at less cost now than hereafter. The sun proposed, however, is large, and the council should make sure that the benefits of competition are not overlooked. The city hall contractor should be able to underbid any other on the work, but it will not do to accept the contractor's proposition without inviting competition. The marble work of THE BEE building, including the imposing arch at the main entrance, the wainscoting of the court and business offices and the marble base for the corridors, only cost \$16,000. The work in the city hall will be less elaborate, and consequently should be less expensive. Therefore \$18,000 ought to make a marvellously beautiful and substantial rotunda. The architect's estimate of the cost of the marble is \$12,000. The other \$6,000 will be used in other decorations and improvements, but practically the \$18,000 is for improvements on the rotunda, and the people have a right to expect that they shall receive full value for the money expended. If there is no job in the additional improvements there will be no adverse criticism of the action of the council in ordering them.

the friends of both Cleveland and Hill he could carry New York. For this locality the most interesting feature of this announcement, which it is presumed was made without the knowledge and approval of Mr. Gorman, is the suggestion that Governor Boies should be his running mate. That would be a combination in which the tail of the ticket would be in most respects stronger than the head. Boies has not seen so much of public life as Gorman, but he is quite his peer in ability and far more respectable as a politician. Gorman is the embodiment of the democratic spoilsman, with a record that would place him wholly on the defensive, and it is extremely doubtful whether Governor Boies would care to risk his chances of political promotion with such a standard bearer. At present the possibilities of his doing much better seem very good.

A TRANSFER of the Indian administration to the War department at this time would be a step backward from which the service would not recover in years. Tinkering with this problem has been the chief cause for its complexity. What is needed is more permanent tenure of office for competent agents and a pushing forward of the educational ideas of the present commission. When all the Indians speak, read and write the English language they can get on by themselves without the aid of agents and by that time their reservations will all be allotted. The present policy of honest administration and earnest efforts to elevate the Indians by industrial education is correct and effective. Let it alone. The senate should refuse to accede to the proposition of the house for replacing agents by army officers.

THE decision of the supreme court of Ohio adverse to the Standard Oil trust is likely to be followed by actions against that corporation in other states. It is stated that the attorney general of New York has advised only for a decision in Ohio in order to bring a similar suit against the trust in New York, where it has more extensive property interests than in Ohio. It appears that the shrewd organizers of this great monopoly intruded themselves in several states before completing the trust arrangement, having been incorporated in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, so that if beaten at one point it can site refuge in another. If voted in both Ohio and New York, however, it may not care to continue the fight.

THE grand jury reconvenes next Tuesday. It is determined to do its duty and rid this community of hoodlars. Let every good citizen contribute to the same end. While the grand jury is in session the people ought to seize the opportunity of purifying the political atmosphere.

THE Court knows itself, Chicago Tribune. Hon. Tom Reed is now almost a quorum in himself. Silence is golden. The superb restaurant under which Bismarck holds himself is illustrated by his eloquent silence during the last week or two. The old gentleman could make a paragraph fairly spectacular if he would let himself out.

Royalty Comes High. Eastern Europe is paying a terrible price for the luxury of being governed by potentates ruling by "the right divine." Before long those potentates may pay dearly for their folly. Europe is sleeping on a volcano. But the dawn cannot be very far off.

Home Industry Makes Home Prosperity. An Omaha paper thinks that 25,000 names will be signed in that city to pledge to give the preference to home manufactures, quality and price being taken into consideration. This will greatly encourage the establishment of new manufactures and increase the old ones. The impression is quite rational.

STOP RIGHT THERE. At the adjourned meeting of the council an ordinance to grant the new Thomson-Houston Electric Light company the right to lay a system of pipes and conduits under the streets of the city was introduced. This was read a first and second time by title and referred to the committee on electric lights. The ordinance is only a scheme for perpetuating the present electric light monopoly and its extortionate rates. It is a new way of obtaining what the company has failed to secure by other means. Under the plausible plea that it desires to place its wires under ground the electric lighting company asks for this privilege of tearing up the streets. When its conduits are constructed and wires stretched in them it will be comparatively easy to induce the council to shut out all bidders on electric lighting by the use of overhead wires, and thus the Thomson-Houston company would be in the field alone. The city should make no more concessions to any of the lighting companies. When the present contracts and franchises expire Omaha should go for her own street lighting and own her electric light and gas plants. In any event no franchise should be granted or contract entered into that will extend existing franchises and contracts.

OUR HISTORY OF NEBRASKA. Plattsmouth Herald: THE OMAHA BEE writes up of Nebraska as a credit to that paper and also to the state. It should be read by everybody. Lincoln Journal: THE OMAHA BEE devoted a four page supplement to a review of the history and progress of Nebraska yesterday morning. It was in every way a creditable edition. Grand Island Independent: THE OMAHA BEE of today is a marvel of enterprise in its way. It is an efficient valuable as well as intensely interesting. It is in every sense a Nebraska paper. Beatrice Democrat: THE OMAHA BEE prints a supplement giving the history of Nebraska. It is quite interesting, especially to people who have lived through some of the stirring events mentioned. York Times: Yesterday's BEE contained a very instructive history of Nebraska during the twenty-five years that it has been a state. It ought to be preserved for future reference by every citizen. The OMAHA BEE of this morning is a valuable paper that is in every way a creditable paper as an anniversary number illustrating the first twenty-five years of Nebraska as a state. The BEE in its enterprise in this matter has given the state a paper that will be remembered with credit.

THE Idaho senatorial contest has been memorable for the division of sentiment it has developed among sitting senators. Senators Vance and Morgan, for instance, have argued the claims of Colonel Clegg while Senators Vilas and Pugh have favored Dubois. Among the republicans there has been a similar divergence of view. Senator Sanders of Montana took strong ground for the contest, while Senator Culom was equally as much in earnest for the contest. The contesting senators are both republican in party.

STILL URGING BLAINE TO RUN. Friends of the Secretary Want Him to Disregard His Letter. NEW YORK, March 3.—According to the World's Washington correspondent there is a movement on foot looking to the nomination of Mr. Blaine at Lincoln despite the letter he has written to the effect that he is not a candidate for the presidency. The most prominent republicans in the country are enlisted in it and the correspondence on the subject shows that the desire for Mr. Blaine's leadership is still widespread in the party. There is the highest authority for saying that Mr. Blaine is well aware of the existence of this feeling. His old supporters have written him repeatedly since the publication of his letter to the effect that they nominate him to the presidency and thereby draft him into its service. Mr. Blaine made no reply, but treated his visitor with cordiality and asked him to come again. He declared during the conversation that his physical condition was much improved.

FATHER DUCY COMPLACENT. He Has Nothing More to Say About the Blaine Marriage. NEW YORK, March 3.—Father Ducey arrived here yesterday. He said to World reporters that he was in a state of "perfect complacency" so far as the Blaine matter was concerned. "Mr. Blaine's letter," he said, "contains nothing that is new to me. When I received that letter in 1883, all I had to say on the subject I wrote to Mr. Blaine. He had it the other way when he wrote his letter to the public. If he wanted to submit the details of the whole affair to the public, why did he not publish his reply?" Mr. Ducey's father of Mrs. James G. Blaine Jr., said that he knew Father Ducey intimately. "I know what I am talking about," he said. "I know that Father Ducey did not make public his reply to Mr. Blaine for the reason that he did not keep a copy of it. It would hardly do for him to give the letter from memory."

WHISKY TRUST People to Carry the Case to the Supreme Court. BOSTON, Mass., March 3.—Charles A. Prince, counsel for the defendants in the whisky trust cases, says: "We shall take our case to the United States supreme court. The cases will be tried here, but we shall accept no decision as final that does not come from the supreme bench. These gentlemen who have been indicted have not been running a trust. They have formed a company which owns certain property. It does not control the entire output of the product manufactured. It is not a monopoly and has not conspired against competitors in the market. Price did not believe the cases would come up Monday, as there had been no time to prepare them."

MINNESOTA Mining Corporation. ST. PAUL, Minn., March 3.—The work of providing for the exploring of the mineral belt in northern Minnesota goes on with un- interrupted activity. In the state auditor's office yesterday thirty-three contracts for fifty-years each were taken out on leases about to expire. New companies were organized and yesterday twenty-one companies with an aggregate capital stock of \$15,000,000, upon which the state levied an incorporation tax of \$8,000, including the companies incorporated, the state is \$23,500 richer than on Monday.

CHICAGO BUREAU OF THE BEE. CHICAGO, Ill., March 3. Interest in the annual election of world's fair directors, which will take place early next month, is becoming lively. Progress is being quietly manipulated and scheming that does not appear on the surface is indulged in by those both inside and outside of the directory. The chief popular interest at present centers about the question of who shall be president during the next year. President Baker, who now holds the position, announces that he is making no effort to retain it, nevertheless it is known that he would accept re-election if for no other reason than as a vindication of his presidential career against the criticisms that have been heaped upon him. Thus far the indications are that Mr. Baker will be re-elected. Generally speaking everybody wants Lyman J. 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