

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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CORRESPONDENCE. All communications relating to news and editorial matters should be addressed to The Editor. Business letters to The Business Letters.

SWORN STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska. I, George B. Tschickler, Secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, do hereby certify that the actual circulation of The Daily Bee for the week ending December 16, 1893, was as follows: Paid circulation, 25,000. Free circulation, 22,954. Total circulation, 47,954.

Average Circulation for November, 34,310. THAT event bridge motor fare does not seem to be coming very fast.

Do the people in Hawaii have time to devote to any other business than politics?

COMPASS still hangs on as president of the Federation of Labor, but he will miss the rivalry of Powderly sadly.

A few well assorted federal officers would be received by Nebraska democrats as the most timely Christmas gifts to be had in the markets.

EMPEROR WILLIAM has again beaten the record for shooting hares. But President Cleveland still holds the lead as a duck demoralizer and a fish fetter.

BOSS CROKER resents the imputation that any of his suddenly acquired wealth was procured by other than strictly honest methods. So did Boss Tweed. What are you going to do about it?

The railroads will not issue transportation to enable the workmen thrown out of employment in Chicago to reach their homes. But the annual passes to lawyer lobbyists and political heelers will be duly delivered by January 1.

INFLUENZA is proving almost as destructive of life in Europe as did the cholera epidemic. The next great benefactor of mankind will have to invent some means by which we can establish an effective quarantine against the importation of influenza germs.

A DEFICIENCY of \$200,000 is anticipated in the appropriation for the expenses of the government printing office. Too much wind in congress and too many investigations out of congress must account for the strain on the resources of the government printer.

The repairs ordered for the Eleventh street viaduct have gotten as far as the submission of plans to a council committee. This viaduct was declared dangerous months ago. The safety of the people forced us to use this viaduct demands its proper restoration within a reasonable period of time.

CONSISTENCY in the matter of ad valorem duties would be a jewel if it were but found in the democratic ways and means committee. It insists upon placing a specific internal revenue tax upon playing cards of 6 cents per pack. This means a tax of 60 per cent upon a pack that now sells for 10 cents and of only 12 per cent upon one that sells for 50 cents. This does not look like equalizing the burdens of taxation among the rich and the poor. The poor man's amusement is to be loaded down with taxation, while the rich club man's private game goes almost free.

The new democratic postmaster at one of the smaller New York towns is described as the most thoroughly disliked man politically in the city. All this, simply because he happened to be one of the latest converts to the Cleveland democracy in New York. The appointment of any other candidate, it is said, would have given general satisfaction but President Cleveland, here, as on so many other occasions, has had the misfortune to choose between two factions and to satisfy neither. As distributed by the present administration, the patronage is rapidly vindicting its reputation as a source of weakness to the party in power.

WHATEVER be the report of the Macleod investigating committee the investigation has shown conclusively that Macleod and employees men, incurred expenses and employed public property quite at his own volition without the slightest regard for the rules and regulations established by the Board of Education. He obeys these rules when they suit his fancy and disobeys them when he thinks they hamper his actions. Such a man is not a desirable employe for the people who prefer to have the school funds expended so that the responsibility therefor may be traced and enforced. Macleod's services are no longer needed by the school board.

MR. HITCHCOCK pleads in excuse for his attempt to hold up applicants for a liquor license that his object is to make it as plain as can be, that his motive is to chisel 275 men and women out of \$3.25 apiece. It is pure and simple blackmail. Hitchcock knows that the Stoumb law has never been amended and is not likely to be. He knows that the law cannot possibly be changed before January, 1895, and if it does not pass both houses by an emergency vote it cannot possibly be changed before April, 1895. If he was honest in his claims and was entitled to the amount allowed by law for publication he would not pocket the money he exacts by his threats.

NO STATE BANK CURRENCY.

The latest information as to the feeling in Washington regarding the proposed repeal of the 10 per cent tax on state bank issues warrants the conclusion that there is not the slightest chance of congress restoring to state banks the privilege of issuing currency. This is given upon the authority of Mr. Springer, chairman of the house committee on banking and currency, who undoubtedly knows as well as any other man in congress the sentiment on this subject. A bill to repeal the tax will, it is said, probably be reported to the house, but even this is not assured in the opinion of Mr. Springer, and he is quoted as saying that even if reported it would be as good as dead. The proposition to federalize state bank issues has been abandoned, being manifestly impracticable and in any event unacceptable to the radical advocates of such issues, who insist that the federal government should not interfere in any way with the states in this matter, claiming that they have a constitutional right to authorize banks to issue currency which cannot be restricted or controlled by congress. These people maintain, notwithstanding the opinion of the supreme court to the contrary, that the imposition of the tax on state bank issues was without constitutional authority and nothing will be acceptable to them but the unconditional repeal of the tax. As Mr. Springer says, a proposition of this kind would be opposed by the practically unanimous vote of the representatives in congress from the northern states. The chairman of the banking and currency committee is also authorized to state that he does not look upon the proposed repeal of the tax, and expresses the opinion that if a bill were passed by congress for this purpose it would encounter the executive veto. The disposition seems to be to let the question be disposed of in congress, and undoubtedly this is the best course in order to put an effective quietus to the agitation.

When this issue is disposed of, as it seems likely to be within a short time, it will become an interesting question as to what new policy the democrats will propose for obtaining an additional supply of currency. It appears that the chairman of the house banking and currency committee has not been idle, and he promises that as soon as the house passes the tariff bill he will have ready to report a measure dealing with security for national bank circulation. From the brief reference made to the character of this proposed bill it is not altogether an original policy that is contemplated. It will provide that the government shall accept gilt-edged state, county and municipal bonds as security for national bank circulation, and as the supply of such bonds is almost boundless and is constantly being added to, it is argued that their use by the banks as a basis of circulation would give the country an elastic currency without impairing its quality. Inasmuch as the national banks cannot for many years longer have government bonds as security for their circulation and there is a strong popular hostility to the government issuing more bonds, if the national system is to be maintained as at present, perhaps there is no better plan for doing this than Mr. Springer suggests. But it would need to be fortified by the strongest possible safeguards in order to maintain public confidence in the bank currency. There is a very considerable element in the present congress, largely composed of members of the dominant party, which is implacably hostile to the national banks and would vigorously oppose such a measure as the chairman of the banking and currency committee says will be reported. It is therefore problematical whether this plan of giving the country an elastic currency could be carried through congress.

COST OF THE LEHIGH STRIKE.

The passing of the customary January dividend of the Lehigh railroad is not the only place where the results of the disastrous Lehigh strike are manifesting themselves. Not only will the January dividend be passed, but many months are likely to elapse before the road again reaches a plane of profitable operation. The outcome of the strike has been not only an impairment of the road as an income-bearing investment for its stockholders and bondholders, but also a diminution of its capacity to continue to employ its former labor force at the old rate of remuneration. The cost of the Lehigh strike has been a heavy one, but its burden will have to be shared by owners and employes together.

In a special report to the directors of the road, President Wilbur has made estimates of the loss involved by the recent labor disturbance. The damage to the property of the company he calculates to be \$7,000, made up of these items: Damage to locomotives, \$48,000; damage to cars, \$19,000; damage to freight in wrecks, \$9,450; damage to perishable freight by delay, \$2,550. These losses, traceable largely to the work of inexperienced or incompetent train crews which were engaged to supply the places of the strikers, are but the smaller part of the injury received by the railroad company. During all the time that the strike was pending the road was to a greater or lesser extent lying idle, despite the daily reports that the usual trains were moving on all branches of the lines. The decrease in net earnings during this period is authoritatively estimated at over \$700,000, making a total loss to the company of nearly \$800,000—a figure that will no doubt be considerably augmented when the demoralization of business that will run well into the new year comes to be considered.

The positive loss to the strikers is of course far less than that which must be borne by the railroad company, but it is sufficiently large to make its want felt. It is estimated to be not less than \$50,000. This sum, however, merely represents what the strikers would have earned had they continued at their work. They are already reaping more of the whirlwind in the reductions of wages that have been ordered in all the branches of the Lehigh service, and the delay that must ensue before the road regains its due share of traffic will necessarily tend to delay the time when the old wages will be restored. And no computation can be made of losses sustained by laborers in allied industries which were hampered by the tieup on the Lehigh.

While these estimates make no pretensions to exact accuracy and in their nature must be only approximations to the truth, they go to show that the cost of the Lehigh strike mounts up well toward \$1,000,000. This is a positive loss to society and one that can ill be sustained at a time of general business depression. It is a powerful argument in favor of some device or legislation that will enable us to avoid this unnecessary waste, to say nothing of the inconvenience to commerce and the danger to life and property involved in every such labor conflict. In this, the Lehigh strike is not peculiar. Society will be an immense gainer, measured solely by the materialistic scale of wealth, when the era of strikes is once and for all time behind us.

DEMANDS HIS \$100 REWARD.

A few days ago Chief Oil Inspector Hilton requested THE BEE to offer \$100 reward in his name to any party that would furnish proof of a single instance of coal oil explosion in this state within the past six months. The first claimant to this reward sends us the following letter:

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Dec. 15.—To the Editor of THE BEE: Regarding the offer of the state oil inspector to pay \$100 for proofs of lamp explosions, etc., I wish to say that on the evening of December 1 a coal oil lamp in my office exploded, resulting in considerable damage. The explosion was seen by a policeman and other parties. They broke into the office and extinguished the fire. There could have been no other cause for the explosion than bad oil. I can prove the facts above stated.

DR. A. SHIPMAN, P. S.—I refer to D. H. Wheeler, sr., H. T. Clarke and F. Colpeter.

If the statements herein made can be substantiated it affords tangible proof that explosive oils are on sale in this state. While the test by the Foster cup under our state oil inspection law is very low, it is claimed by experts that it is high enough, if inspection rules are rigidly enforced, to protect consumers from the dangers incident to explosions. The Plattsmouth case should by all means be looked into, and if the oil was bought from a Nebraska dealer out of an inspected barrel investigation should be made as to the mode of procedure on the part of the deputy who made the inspection. If the oil was not certified to by an inspector the dealer should be hauled up for violating the law.

THE DEMOCRATIC PENSION POLICY.

A discussion of the pension policy of the present administration was precipitated in the house of representatives on Saturday by the proposed appropriation for special examiners in the pension service. While not objecting to the appropriation republican representatives vigorously attacked the course of the administration in its treatment of pensioners. The democratic defense was not strong and was more apologetic than anything else. It is to be noted, also, that it came from southern men, one of whom had been especially bitter in his hostility to the last republican commissioner of pensions and who has otherwise manifested at every opportunity a deep-seated dislike of the whole pension system.

Those democrats whose judgment is not utterly warped and distorted by their prejudice against the policy of pensioning union soldiers realize that the administration has made a grave mistake in dealing with this matter, and they are not anxious to invite or encourage discussion of it. The charge of wholesale pension frauds was proclaimed vigorously as soon as it was known that the democratic party was successful in the last national election and the country was told that a thorough policy of purgation would be instituted immediately after the democratic party entered into control of the executive department of the government. Nobody objected to this policy if conducted fairly and justly. There is not anywhere a union soldier who desires that a pensioner be retained on the rolls who has no right to be there. It is the wish of every good citizen that the pension roll shall be a roll of honor, bearing upon it only the names of those who faithfully served their country and are justly entitled to its bounty. But the present administration began the work of purging the pension list upon the theory that fraud was the rule rather than the exception, and instead of proceeding to correct the alleged wrong against the people by adopting a course which would have given every suspected pensioner an opportunity of defense against the assumption of fraud before being cut off from the bounty of the government, it went to work upon the hypothesis that all suspected pensioners were guilty until they could prove their innocence. It condemned them in advance of giving them an opportunity to be heard in their own defense, and administered punishment before conviction. No criminal charged with the most heinous offense against the law is thus treated. This utterly indefensible outrage called for and received the reprobation of all fair-minded citizens and the administration was forced by overwhelming public opinion to recede from its unjust and unwarrantable policy. But this did not alter the belief created by its course that it is distinctly unfriendly to the nation's pensioners and it is hardly possible that anything may hereafter do will remove that belief. Nor will any explanations or apologies which the defendants of the administration may offer suffice to do so. Its true animus was shown in the order suspending thousands of pensioners in advance of a hearing, the great majority of whom were able to prove that they were entitled to the government bounty they were receiving.

There are democrats who have the candor to acknowledge the grave wrong committed by the administration in this matter. Senator Voorhees has done so in unmistakable terms, and the democratic candidate for governor of Ohio at the late election has condemned the pension policy of the administration in terms as strong as any republican has used against it. But it is not to be expected that the democracy will be induced to show a more friendly concern

PEOPLE AND THINGS.

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Mrs. Hattie Gottlieb of Lowell, Mass., is probably the youngest grandmother in the country. She was married before she was 15, in 1870, and her daughter, born in 1877, married before she was 16. The grandchild, Eva, was born in September last.

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All women, both great and small, love sugar and sweetmeats is true. There's Fanny Davenport, who must have her peppermint along with her Marc Antony, and her edgy, delicate Florence Rockwell, who declares she cannot part with Ophelia to Keene's "Hamlet" unless she has her peanut brittle, "Perry," with her passion for preserved pears.

It lightens a duty to resolve to perform it cheerfully. Some men are more afraid of criticism than a woman is of a shotgun.

The man who lives only for himself is engaged in very small business. The man who would have done so and so if he had been there, never gets there.

There is more help in an ounce of encouragement than there is in a ton of advice. The man who unconsciously does much to secure the success of another is that fellow who snores in the sleeping car.

The father who does not put good reading matter in the hands of his children has never done any real praying for their salvation.

A Rank Injustice. Lincoln News. As the facts in the matter of the management of the Burlington Voluntary Relief department become known it is very evident that the state insurance department ought to take the matter in hand and compel it to incorporate as an insurance company, subject to the same rules and regulations governing companies of that character. While it may be true that in forming this department the aim was to give relief to the poor, the prohibited risks are compelled to pay exorbitant premiums for accident protection against regular companies, an opportunity to get the benefits of accident insurance at cost, yet the operations of the department will, if the facts are as stated, be a rank injustice to the employes.

The statement has been frequently made, and the News believes it has not been contradicted, that despite the name it bears, the company requires every employe to be a member of the relief department and to contribute a certain portion of his earnings monthly to the accident and death benefit fund. The company in return guarantees to pay all expenses and all claims. If the employe dies, the benefits are greater than he accepts the company makes up the difference. This would on its face appear to be most magnanimous of the company's part, were it not for the fact that one of the clauses in the agreement which the employe must sign provides that the acceptance by him or any member or representative of his family of the amount of his claim against the department acts as an estoppel of any action at law or money to recompense him for his injury or his family for the loss of his support. While it is yet to be decided by the courts whether this in reality acts as a bar to any action, yet the fact that it is in their agreement has prevented the company from being made defendant in numerous suits.

Suppose, for instance, that through no fault of the employe, but by reason of defective appliances or lack of the proper number of men to handle the company's cars, an employe loses his life or is injured so badly as to prevent him from working any more. According to the regulations of the relief department he would receive a certain stipulated sum, \$500 or \$1,000. He would have received a similar amount if there had been contributory negligence on his part, but because he accepts from the relief department what is due on his accident policy the company claims that he should by the courts be refused an opportunity to compel it to recompense him or his family for the loss of his earning capacity. The company's position would be established one way or the other for this fact. In fixing the amount of dues or premiums which shall be paid to members of the department, undoubtedly calculated it so that as near as possible the disbursements equaled the receipts. In other words, that the benefits are paid by the department come from the employes. The company claims that at the end of each period there is a deficit which it is compelled to irrevocably force upon the investigator that it is a very cheap way for the company to liquidate all damage claims.

Another feature that distinctly operates to the benefit of the company is that, there being no contributory negligence, it prevents the company from discharging a man after he has been injured, and thus shutting off his sick benefits, although it is but fair to say that the company is not to be held liable on one case on record where this was done. This case is still pending in the courts as a point of law.

On the whole, the man who investigates the Burlington Voluntary Relief department must be impressed with the fact that it is a good thing, a very good thing—for the company.

Counting the Cost. Philadelphia Times. If all its available assets were disposed of the Iron Hill could pay 25 cents on the dollar. When they were taken in its victims didn't think they were to get such quarters.

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Mrs. Hattie Gottlieb of Lowell, Mass., is probably the youngest grandmother in the country. She was married before she was 15, in 1870, and her daughter, born in 1877, married before she was 16. The grandchild, Eva, was born in September last.

Virginia, "the mother of presidents," and Mahone, has suffered another wrench of her proud soul. Even the hallowed name of the grand old man of the political dust, senatorial caucus turned down Fitzhugh and elevated one Martin. How the mighty has fallen!

All women, both great and small, love sugar and sweetmeats is true. There's Fanny Davenport, who must have her peppermint along with her Marc Antony, and her edgy, delicate Florence Rockwell, who declares she cannot part with Ophelia to Keene's "Hamlet" unless she has her peanut brittle, "Perry," with her passion for preserved pears.

It lightens a duty to resolve to perform it cheerfully. Some men are more afraid of criticism than a woman is of a shotgun.

The man who lives only for himself is engaged in very small business. The man who would have done so and so if he had been there, never gets there.

There is more help in an ounce of encouragement than there is in a ton of advice. The man who unconsciously does much to secure the success of another is that fellow who snores in the sleeping car.

The father who does not put good reading matter in the hands of his children has never done any real praying for their salvation.

A Rank Injustice. Lincoln News. As the facts in the matter of the management of the Burlington Voluntary Relief department become known it is very evident that the state insurance department ought to take the matter in hand and compel it to incorporate as an insurance company, subject to the same rules and regulations governing companies of that character. While it may be true that in forming this department the aim was to give relief to the poor, the prohibited risks are compelled to pay exorbitant premiums for accident protection against regular companies, an opportunity to get the benefits of accident insurance at cost, yet the operations of the department will, if the facts are as stated, be a rank injustice to the employes.

The statement has been frequently made, and the News believes it has not been contradicted, that despite the name it bears, the company requires every employe to be a member of the relief department and to contribute a certain portion of his earnings monthly to the accident and death benefit fund. The company in return guarantees to pay all expenses and all claims. If the employe dies, the benefits are greater than he accepts the company makes up the difference. This would on its face appear to be most magnanimous of the company's part, were it not for the fact that one of the clauses in the agreement which the employe must sign provides that the acceptance by him or any member or representative of his family of the amount of his claim against the department acts as an estoppel of any action at law or money to recompense him for his injury or his family for the loss of his support. While it is yet to be decided by the courts whether this in reality acts as a bar to any action, yet the fact that it is in their agreement has prevented the company from being made defendant in numerous suits.

Suppose, for instance, that through no fault of the employe, but by reason of defective appliances or lack of the proper number of men to handle the company's cars, an employe loses his life or is injured so badly as to prevent him from working any more. According to the regulations of the relief department he would receive a certain stipulated sum, \$500 or \$1,000. He would have received a similar amount if there had been contributory negligence on his part, but because he accepts from the relief department what is due on his accident policy the company claims that he should by the courts be refused an opportunity to compel it to recompense him or his family for the loss of his earning capacity. The company's position would be established one way or the other for this fact. In fixing the amount of dues or premiums which shall be paid to members of the department, undoubtedly calculated it so that as near as possible the disbursements equaled the receipts. In other words, that the benefits are paid by the department come from the employes. The company claims that at the end of each period there is a deficit which it is compelled to irrevocably force upon the investigator that it is a very cheap way for the company to liquidate all damage claims.

Another feature that distinctly operates to the benefit of the company is that, there being no contributory negligence, it prevents the company from discharging a man after he has been injured, and thus shutting off his sick benefits, although it is but fair to say that the company is not to be held liable on one case on record where this was