

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee, with Sunday One Year, \$4.00...

A ROYAL RECONCILIATION.

During the somewhat sensational and erratic career of Emperor William since he ascended the throne nearly six years ago nothing has done so much credit to him as his self-sought reconciliation with the great statesman who effected German unity and established the empire for more than twenty years has dominated the political affairs of Europe.

INCOME TAX THEORIES.

Much of the confusion noticeable in popular discussions of the income tax is traceable to a failure to distinguish between the two main theories upon which that form of taxation has been defended. The great object of every system of taxation is to distribute the burdens of government as to promote justice among the several parties from whom payment is exacted.

THE MINISTER AND PUBLIC EVILS.

By H. T. F., in the Mid-Congress. This was recently the subject of discussion in the Ministers Alliance of Kansas City. Events seem to be giving it an immediate practical importance. One does not need a microscope to find evils in our city administration.

ANOTHER ODDIOUS COMPARISON.

Figures that plainly Tell Their Own Story Without Added Detail. Once more THE BEE has made a little comparison that will be highly gratifying to readers of this paper.

PEOPLE AND THINGS.

The disorderly proceedings in the house is steadily transforming alleged reform into mob law. The early retirement of Governor Penoyer will remove much gaiety from the life of the nation.

PLAUSIBLY PUT.

Chicago Tribune: "That young lady seems to be practicing her lesson unconsciously." "Who? Miss Bithers." "That isn't Desaire; that's St. Vitus' dance!"

WE WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY PROMINENT MEN LEFT IN SERBIA WHO HAVE NEVER HAD A CABINET PORTFOLIO OFFERED TO THEM.

Now that Emperor William and Bismarck have kissed and made up it will be in order for Grover to embrace the Iron Duke of Tammany.

NOT A SINGLE NEBRASKA PLUM IN A WHOLE WEEK! Those federal appointments don't come soon nor democrat in this neck of the woods will be able to survive the next Nebraska blizzard.

SAN FRANCISCO IS THE MOST COSMOPOLITAN CITY IN AMERICA, and the opening of the Midwinter fair on Sundays is therefore in accord with the prevailing sentiment of the great majority of San Franciscans.

THERE IS STILL A GOOD DEAL OF MONEY IN THE STATE TREASURY that could be loaned out at 3 per cent for the benefit of the taxpayers if it cannot be invested in state warrants that are drawing 7 per cent interest.

THINGS ARE GETTING AWFULLY DULL IN OMAHA. We have heard nothing for a whole week about the anti-vice crusade, the impeachment of the mayor or the luscious plums in Grover's fruit basket in store for Jacksonian patriots.

THAT WAS A MEAN TRICK TO INCREASE THE DIAMOND SCHEDULE OF THE WILSON BILL. The faithful will be compelled to postpone their hopes of wearing diamonds until the protective duty enables some enterprising American to open up a diamond factory.

ARTIST ST. GAUDENS IS GAINING MORE NOTORIETY THROUGH THE REJECTION of his design for the World's fair medal than from the best piece of work he has heretofore accomplished. After all this advertising his services ought to be in greater demand than ever.

WHEN THE BRAZILIAN WAR DOGS are chained and muzzled we may confidently look for a belligerent outbreak in Chili, Paraguay, Bolivia, Uruguay, Peru or Mexico. These hot countries still believe that frequent blood-letting is necessary for the preservation of good health.

THE BRAZILIAN WAR IS LIKELY TO COLLAPSE WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS, and by that time the fighting crews on the dynamite cruisers and torpedo boats will be ready to make a desperate and terrific onslaught on the American sea biscuit and English ale that has been kept in store for an emergency.

"TALMAGE PREACHING DOESN'T PAY," is the way the news of Mr. Talmage's prospective retirement from the pulpit of the Brooklyn tabernacle has been heralded through the press. We are not quite so sure of that, however. It has evidently paid Talmage. The great trouble has been that Talmage has not been able to bank up the fires of sheet so as to keep the Brooklyn congregation cool in the summer and comfortable in the winter.

THE TELEPHONE PATENT EXPIRES WITH THE END OF THIS MONTH, but the local telephone rentals will continue to be charged as usual upon the monthly bills. After paying the royalty upon the patent during the years of its natural life the people have almost come to the conclusion that they ought to have the benefit of cheaper rates when the claim to that royalty shall have been extinguished. But they cannot expect cheaper telephone rates to come of themselves. They will have to make an effort to secure them.

DOUGLAS COUNTY SECURES AS ITS QUOTA OF THE STATE SCHOOL APPOINTMENT \$31,992.75 out of a total of \$308,508, or a trifle more than 10 per cent. Douglas county at the same time contains over 14 per cent of the entire population of the state. The only way to account for the divergence in the two ratios is to assume that the other counties have been more successful in developing a supply of children of school age. Nothing so stimulates the industry of discovering children between 5 and 21 years old as the apportionment of state school moneys upon that basis.

THE BOSTON ADVERTISER TAKES SECRETARY Morton severely to task for reprinting what it calls a respectful remonstrance against his utterances in such a form as to exhibit its bad spelling, incorrect grammatical construction and other faults of language, evidently for the purpose of holding its authors up to ridicule. Incorrect grammar is necessarily a great shock to any one who hails from Boston, and the secretary has inexcusably offended its good people in giving circulation to such barbarous literature. The Agriculture department should furnish an editor to revise the resolutions which local granges may propose to adopt.

TRANSATLANTIC POSTAL SERVICE.

With the improvements in ocean steamships which enable them to make faster and prompter voyages between Europe and America it is only nature to expect corresponding improvements in the postal service that is expedited by those vessels. So far as the United States and one or two of the continental countries are concerned, this has in fact been the case. Advantage has been taken by the postmaster general of every opportunity to better the system of transmitting foreign mails and no expense has been spared to make that service as satisfactory as circumstances permit. Thus Germany and the United States each maintain ocean postoffices on board the great mail steamships that ply between the two countries, in which the mail is assorted and distributed ready for immediate consignment to its destination the moment the landing is effected. The fastest vessels are utilized for postal purposes, without reference to the flags which they fly or the countries in which their owners happen to reside.

THE SOUTH BETTER FOR DEFEAT.

Judge Speer of the United States district court at Savannah, Georgia, in an address a few days ago to the grand jury, gave utterance to sentiments which have attracted attention, not only because extraordinary for such an occasion, but for the further reason that the views expressed regarding the defeat of the confederacy are remarkable as coming from that section of the country and from a judge who did what he could for the success of the confederacy. Judge Speer called attention to the fact that he is an ex-confederate, as are the federal district attorney and marshal, but he declared that they are none the less devoted to the laws of our common country and none the less resolved to do all they can for their enforcement. Having pointed out the strength of the claim of federal laws on the south, the judge proceeded to consider what the condition of the people of that section would be if they had succeeded in the effort to disrupt the union and establish an independent government in the south.

THE ADVANCE OF SCIENCE.

A scientist has discovered that people eat more in cold than in warm weather. He may have also observed that they wear more clothing in winter than in summer, and that they maintain fires more constantly. Science is constantly making discoveries, but it sometimes overlooks very common phenomena.

CHARMING CANDOR.

General Sickles of New York exhibits a charming frankness in his declaration that he has been studying the tariff question for forty years and yet thinks that he does not sufficiently understand it to justify his making a speech thereon. And yet there are scores of callow statesmen in congress who think that they have mastered the whole subject in six easy lessons.

A COSTLY CONVENIENCE.

The telephone is a great convenience, but it has been a costly one. Since 1880, when the first company was organized to introduce it to public use, the dividends declared have aggregated \$23,069,993. It was a great invention and the reward of the inventor has been proportionately great. Now that the patent has expired the public should be accorded a service that bears some reasonable relation to the price exacted for it to the cost of plant and maintenance.

DECLINE IN THE INCOMES.

It is more than likely that reduced revenues and incomes will bring back to Philadelphia very soon quite a number who have been living in luxury abroad upon the earnings of properties and investments built up by their thrifty and industrious ancestors. Several such cases have happened already. One very wealthy lady sold her house and furniture and shook the dust of Philadelphia from her feet, declaring she would never again set foot in the mean, squalid place, where her father built up his fortune out of rags. Within a month she was found, having returned to her native land, the vestments she left behind her. In another case several titled personages have come pell-mell from Italy to find out the meaning of the lessened revenues from Philadelphia properties which they acquired by marriage.

THE SEASON OF SPEED PREMIUMS.

It is inopportune to assume that the government, after twelve years of construction for the new navy, during which the genius and efficiency of American designers and shipbuilders have been triumphantly vindicated, cannot contract directly for a ship of nineteen, twenty or twenty-one knots and give precisely what it asks for. It is wholly unnecessary, and now well nigh scandalous, to invite proposals for a seventeen-knot ship at \$2,000,000, when the actual cost of the contract price, for the artificial record of a nineteen-knot ship. We say "artificial record," for it must not be forgotten that the trials are under conditions which will never be reproduced, and that the machinery is subjected to a tremendous strain for the sake of forcing a speed which can never be maintained in actual service. That record is not worth what it costs. The system is unbusinesslike, wasteful and radically wrong.

GENERAL SOVEREIGNTY IS ADVERTISING HIMSELF IN A WAY THAT IS CALCULATED TO MAKE THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR LOOK BACK UPON POWELL WITH GREATLY INCREASED RESPECT FOR THAT GENTLEMAN'S CAPACITY.

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