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AN IRRIGATION SURVEY.

The bill introduced in the United States senate by Senator Allen, to provide for an irrigation survey of the great plains and semi-arid lands of the United States, ought to pass. The measure provides that from and after its passage it shall be the duty of the secretary of the interior to cause an irrigation survey to be made of the great plains and semi-arid lands of the United States which are made unproductive by reason of too small an amount of rainfall, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe. It also provides that accurate field notes of such survey, maps and other data shall be made and preserved, and when the survey is complete a detailed report of the same in writing, with accompanying data, shall be made to congress. Five hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated by the act to carry its purposes into execution.

Such a survey as this measure contemplates is desirable and it is remarkable that it was not provided for long ago. A great deal of public money has been expended on geological surveys in the region referred to in Senator Allen's bill, the value of which is somewhat doubtful, but a careful survey of the great plains and semi-arid lands, which will furnish an accurate showing of the topography of these lands and afford an intelligible idea of the possibilities of irrigation, is yet wanting. Until this is supplied no trustworthy judgment can be formed as to how much of the vast arid and semi-arid region can be made productive by means of irrigation. It is known that this territory is extensive enough for the seat of an empire and it is not doubted that a great part of it can be reclaimed, but it is manifestly desirable to ascertain, as nearly as possible, how much can be made available for agriculture, and in order to obtain this knowledge there will have to be such a survey as the bill referred to contemplates. Under proper direction the sum proposed to be appropriated for this purpose ought to be ample, and congress ought to be entirely willing to secure the desired information at no greater cost than this. The duty of the government to make the proposed survey is of course unquestionable and there does not seem to be any valid reason why the performance of this duty should be longer postponed, unless it be the condition of the treasury, but as the proposed survey would probably extend over several years the expense of it annually would not be a serious additional strain upon the treasury. Senator Allen's bill is in charge of the committee on public lands, of which he is a member, and a favorable report on it is to be expected.

THE TRUE AND THE FALSE.

The Bee has always been conducted on the broad-gauge principle that its columns are open to all parties who take exception to comment. It has made or attempted to make published. In other words The Bee is always willing to give everybody an opportunity to set himself right before the public, if he claims that he has been misquoted or misrepresented. In pursuing this liberal policy The Bee does not necessarily retract or crawlfish. It does not even concede that it has misquoted or misrepresented, although in some instances the corrections show that it has been imposed upon by somebody.

For instance, we have recently given two columns to an insurance agent, who asserts that "the Bee's views as to the value of policy law are unsound." The fact that we have published this article can by no means be construed into an admission that we are wrong and the companies are right. We take it that the intelligent public will discount the fact that an agent is more interested in the insurance companies than he is in the policy holders.

Another case in point is the correction which the surveyor of this port has seen fit to make concerning the income of his office. This official declares that The Bee has overrated the income, when in fact our estimate was based on treasury department reports. As a matter of courtesy we have given the gentleman the privilege of his own version, but that does not disprove the figures we have cited, with possibly the single exception of the prospective commission in handling the new federal building appropriation.

A more striking instance still is the card of the county attorney, who asserted over his name that certain court reports were baseless fabrications. This card was given publicity not only as a matter of courtesy, but also to show that The Bee had no disposition to misrepresent either the county attorney or judge. But Mr. Kaley's version is not the version of that case as given by the court reporter and up to this time we have no information that would in any material way gainsay the facts published, although the comments of the reporter may have been out of place.

The reliability of The Bee as a newspaper will stand favorable comparison with that of any of the great dailies in the land. No paper is infallible, but there is a difference between a paper liberal enough to keep its columns open to correction and even criticism of its own conduct and papers that fabricate sensational stories and purposely color or suppress facts for personal or partisan ends.

THE JEFFERSON SQUARE INJUNCTION.

Can Jefferson square be converted into a market place or must it forever remain as part of the park system, because the park commission has expended a few thousand dollars for sidewalks, music stand, shrubbery and poles? The charter says that the mayor and council shall have power to erect and establish market houses and market places and they may locate such market houses and market places on public grounds. In Jefferson square public ground or is it exempted from the sweeping provision of the charter concerning the use of public grounds for market places and public buildings?

This is the pivotal point upon which the test case, brought by Mr. Tukey of the park commission, hinges. On this point and on this point only the injunction suit should be decided. The attempt to ring in the validity of the proposed bond issue for market places simply bypasses the real question—can Jefferson square be used for a purpose except as a park? Is there any suggestion as to perpetual use of any public grounds to which the city has a clear title for one purpose only?

Now, inasmuch as the decision to be rendered on this point is liable to result in a long-drawn contest through the supreme court that will retard for an indefinite period a public improvement that the citizens of Omaha have decreed by an overwhelming majority, would it not be desirable that the case be argued before three or more of our ablest judges and that the judgment accepted as final? We make this suggestion with no disrespect to Judge Ferguson, but merely with a view to a speedy settlement of a question in which the taxpayers,

business men and workmen of Omaha are interested.

Omaha is badly in need of a market house and auditorium hall. This structure should be monumental and impressive. Such a building must occupy a whole square with streets on all sides and accessible to every part of the city by street railway. If we are to divert half of the money voted for a market house and auditorium for the site we shall only be able to build a mere shell that will require patching and repairing every few years and would become an eyesore in a short period instead of a superb piece of architecture.

In planting itself in the way of this improvement the park commission has struck a blow at the growth and prosperity of Omaha. For this, however, the council is as much to blame as the commission. There was no rational excuse for voting \$300 out of the city treasury to pay a lawyer to defeat an improvement which it had decided to undertake. In any event, however, we would urge that Judge Ferguson be induced to call upon two or more judges of the district court to join him in hearing the case argued and rendering the decision.

NO CONCESSIONS FROM CANADA.

The speech of the governor general of Canada at the opening of Parliament last week indicated that it is not proposed to offer any commercial concessions to the United States. The governor general announced that a measure will be laid before Parliament having for its object the revision of the duties of customs, with a view to meet the changes which time has effected in business operations of all kinds throughout the Dominion, but he was careful to say that it was not proposed to change the principles on which existing enactments on this subject are based. That is to say, the tariff policy which discriminates in favor of England and against the United States is to be maintained, the governor general pointing out that a large proportion of the increase of trade during last year was due to the extension of trade during last year was due to the extension of commerce with Great Britain. Thus it appears that while certain influences in this country are at work endeavoring to secure the admission of Canadian coal and farm products free of duty the Canadian government is determined to adhere to its tariff, except, perhaps, as it may be found expedient to make changes in the interest of enlarging trade with Great Britain.

The obvious fact is that the Canadian government does not intend to grant any reciprocal trade advantages to the United States, and there is really no good reason why it should. If we offer the Canadians this great market without any consideration, as it is proposed to do, they would be foolish to make any concessions. They have been for years seeking to make an arrangement with us that would open free to their natural products the American market and we have told them that in order to secure this most valuable privilege it would be necessary for them to concede something in the interest of our manufactured products. There was promise that in time an arrangement of this kind could be made, because the farmers of Canada were vehemently demanding it, but now that they are assured of getting all they sought without giving anything in return, they can be depended upon to make the most of their advantage. The accession of the democratic party to power was a good thing for Canada and her statesmen and people have given abundant evidence that they appreciate it.

ANOTHER OBJECT LESSON.

It is well to note and remember the record made in the United States senate on the passage of the Bland coinage bill, so that the responsibility for that legislation shall be placed where it belongs. This record shows that the affirmative was made up of thirty-two democrats, eight republicans and four populists, and the negative of eleven democrats and twenty republicans. It thus appears that the democratic supporters of the measure were in the proportion of nearly three to one, while the proportion of republicans who voted against the measure was as two and one-half to one of the party. Thus the democrats gave a party majority of 21 for the bill to "coin a vacuum," while the republicans gave a party majority of 12 against this vicious measure.

The Irrigation Convention.

It is interesting in this connection to recall the record made by the two parties in the senate at the extra session. On the proposition for the free coinage of silver twenty-three democrats voted for free coinage and twenty-two against it, while the republican vote was ten for and twenty-six against. Thus there was a clear majority of the democrats for free coinage, while the republicans were against it nearly three to one. On the final passage of the bill terminating the purchase of silver, twenty-two democrats voted for the measure and twenty-three against it, while the republicans gave twenty-six votes for repeal and ten against. A majority of the democrats in the senate were opposed to stopping silver purchases by the government and the success of the bill was due to the consistent support of the republican friends of a sound and stable currency. One of two republicans who voted for that policy caused some surprise by giving their support to the seigniorage bill, but the two parties stand practically now where they have always stood regarding silver—the republicans favoring its restricted use in the currency and the democrats as a party advocating its unlimited use. The whole history of financial legislation during the last quarter of a century shows that the democratic party has uniformly gone on record against sound and honest finance, while the republican party has been as uniformly consistent in insisting upon keeping faith and maintaining the national credit. During all the years of struggle against inflationists and repudiators—against the advocates of irredeemable greenbacks, the putting forth of fiat money, and the free and unlimited coinage of silver—the republican party has never wavered in its devotion to a sound and stable currency. Perhaps it made a mistake in passing the act of 1890 which made the government a purchaser of silver, but that was done to head off worse legislation that was threatened and really attested the concern of the republicans for keeping the currency on a sound basis. There was no exigency to be met and there was the most practicable way of meeting it. The fact is undeniable that whenever the issue has been clearly made as between sound and unsound finance there has been an overwhelming preponderance of republican votes on the right side and of democratic votes on the wrong side.

DEMORALIZATION.

Washington Star: The sunshine on the river, an' the fly in the brook. The ball is in the basket, an' the minnow's in the brook. Things is lazy. Like the nifty mountain top, An' how I wish I could fish. An' never stop. Oh, weather, April weather, how ye put the world in tune. Ye got the seasons all confused—yer name is surely June. An' I'm dreamin' the world is in a daze. Where the mill-wheel diamond's drop An' how I wish I could fish. An' never stop. Mankind was made fur labor. But let me tell ye, work settles o'er the land. Made fur me fer shirk. An' I'll drive. An' I'll drive. Whilst I harvest pleasure's crop; The world is in a daze. An' never stop.

is a greater amount of idle and unproductive money now than ever before.

Will Mr. Cleveland go with the majority of his party in regard to this policy or will he be consistent with his past course and put a check to the inflation tendency of his party? He has the seigniorage bill in his hands and the question is to what he will do with it. It is seriously asked in financial circles. If he veto it, as he must do in order to avoid self-stultification, the effect upon financial confidence will be most wholesome, because it will reassure the country that the president is still to be depended on to prevent legislation inimical to a sound and stable currency. Faith is strong that Mr. Cleveland will return the silver seigniorage bill to the house with reasons for withholding his signature, and should he do this it would be the end of the measure, as there is not the slightest likelihood that a veto could be set aside in the house, but in case it should be the senate would certainly sustain a veto. There is still ground for hope, therefore, that the scheme for "coining a vacuum" will fail. In any case, however, it will remain as an object lesson of democratic indifference to the maintenance of a sound currency and an unimpaired public credit.

Police Commissioner Stricker takes occasion to bewail the fact that his efforts at bogus social reform are not backed up by a general public sentiment in their favor.

He is waiting for the moral sensibilities of the people to catch up with his advanced ideas upon the duty of the citizen to see that the laws are strictly enforced. Yet in another breath he tells about a most terrible shock sustained by his nerves not long ago when on passing a particular street corner on a Sabbath morning he saw a saloon actually open. He even saw men inside, but that did not arouse his curiosity as to whether or not they were violating the liquor laws of the state. He turned his face away for fear he might become a witness to the violation of those laws. It is fortunate that the general public sentiment has not yet adopted Mr. Stricker's idea of public duty. Mr. Stricker is a member of the police commission. Either in that capacity or in his capacity as citizen he had a right to make a complaint against the saloon keeper who was violating the law. He might have informed the policeman upon the spot, and had the policeman neglected to act he could have had him summoned before the police commission and dismissed. Did Mr. Stricker do either of these things? No, he turned away his face in order not to see. Mr. Stricker is waiting for the morals of the community to rise to the plane of his praiseworthy actions.

The order transferring the Indian supply depot from New York to Chicago is arousing no little opposition among the merchants of the former city, who are busily circulating petitions vigorously protesting against the proposed change.

They think that Chicago is altogether too far west for the station and fear that the government may lose by removing the seat of competitive proposals for furnishing the supplies so far from the place of manufacture or importation. This merely shows that the Indian supply depot is something worth having or else the metropolis would not be so reluctant to letting it go. Had it gone so far west as Omaha the noise would doubtless have been doubled. But it also indicates what we may expect from the people of Chicago when the effort is made there to remove the station from Chicago to Omaha.

Davis and His Chicken Team.

There is no reason for laughing at the Nebraska man who has trained twelve geese from Omaha to San Francisco. It is a good thing to do, but by no means a feat. It is the geese who have always been in dispute: Is the leechon chicken long-winded? Can any one else keep howling out of a pen a string of 1,000 miles? Is the bird merely a spry? There is no way of getting at all these things but by experiment. Mr. Davis of Omaha is the experimenter in the interest of science. He has trained twelve geese from the Missouri river across the plains, over the mountains and through the desert. The starting men will await the start with interest, keep time during the peregrination, and thus report an annual crop certain in place of the uncertain returns with which the labor of the farmer is beset. The limit of Colorado and the rain belt of the Missouri valley have been traversed, and the direction that these irrigation developments will assume is indicated by a remarkable enterprise at Great Bend, Kan., where it is proposed to create the waters of two or three large creeks and the overflow of the Arkansas river into the Kansas basin and thus create a lake of fifty square miles in extent. This is another project that will be fostered and promoted by the interstate association, whose coming session at Omaha ought to be made a great success.

THE BLOODLESS WAR.

Globe-Democrat: Governor Waite of Colorado finds more ways of making an ass of himself than any other public official in this country. Philadelphia Times: As a warrior Waite is even a more brilliant failure than as a civil ruler. When he gets through he has accomplished nothing and offers from any dime museum in the country. Denver News: A dark pal of awful gloom has ensconced Grant and beautiful Denver. He is a man who is nearly lifted and that before his sun shall set it will be swept away by the sweet breezes of human reason and brotherly love. Kansas City Times: Governor Waite of Colorado who appears to desire the reputation of a perpetual fire-brand, fortunately lacks the nerve to carry out his wild-horse policies. He is a man who is nearly lifted and that before his sun shall set it will be swept away by the sweet breezes of human reason and brotherly love.

Chicago Tribune: It is barely possible that the members of the police board whom he is trying to oust ought to be removed. It may be they are making a vexatious and unjustified fight to keep in office a man who does not excuse Governor Waite for his last mad act. The only excuse which can be made for him is that he is mentally irresponsible.

Chicago Record: When the present disgraceful contest has subsided the lesson it will have for Colorado voters is one teaching the prime necessity of selecting candidates for high places with a view to their personal responsibility and fitness. It should also teach the monstrous folly of carrying a comparatively insignificant political quarrel to the verge of civil war.

New York World: Governor Waite is a man who thinks that he has been elected to a dictatorship to stay where they are, but is denied them. He appears to be anxious to signalize his reign by precipitating a slaughter.

Washington Star: Colorado has never had any reason for being proud of Governor Waite. From the beginning of his term of office he has been a disturber of the entire peace and tranquility of the state. His ordinary dimensions, a mischievous crank, whose principal object in life seemed to be the attainment of cheap notoriety. Now he has succeeded in creating a disturbance which will do the city of Denver and the state of Colorado incalculable damage.

WITTY WINOVIKES.

Inter Ocean: When the bill collector goes 'round it's a high he wants to get square. Texas Siftings: Many a man who is a good shot in this world hopes to miss fire the first time he goes to the range. New Orleans Picayune: Be generous to officer holder whose office you want. Put yourself in his place. Philadelphia Times: News comes that a Providence youth was fined \$5 for kissing a girl. He mentions Mr. Burdell of Providence in connection with the work, as if he were to get the contract for the reservoirs. Senator Manderson also introduced a bill appropriating \$1,200 for paving around the federal building at Nebraska City.

ALLEN'S IRRIGATION BILL.

Senator Allen introduced the following bill, making an appropriation of \$3,000,000 to the committee on public lands, to provide for an irrigation survey of the great plains and semi-arid lands of the United States. "Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that from and after the passage of this act the secretary of the interior to cause an irrigation survey to be made of the great plains and semi-arid lands of the United States which are made unproductive by reason of too small an amount of rainfall, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe. Accurate field notes of such survey, maps and other data shall be made and preserved, and when the survey is complete a detailed report of the same in writing, with accompanying data, shall be made to congress."

NEBRASKA FARM STATISTICS.

Two special census bulletins were issued this evening giving statistics of agriculture and wealth of the United States in 1890. From the first one it is seen that there were in Nebraska a total of 113,608 farms comprising 115,247,705 improved acres and 6,348,739 acres unimproved, the value of which was \$402,558,913, while the implements and machinery on it were valued at \$16,468,877, and the stock at \$29,561,242. The estimated value of farm products in the census year was \$66,837,817. There were 626,789 horses, 46,312 mules and asses, 2,342,307 head of cattle, 4,856,500 sheep, 915,647 swine, 209,243 sheep and 118,264 wool fleeces. The total number of farms in Iowa was 201,800, comprising 30,815,641 acres, of which 25,428,899 were improved and 5,386,742 unimproved. Their total valuation was \$87,162,022 and upon them there were implements and machinery valued at \$29,956,986. The estimated value of farm products that year was \$159,243,844; horses, 1,312,023; mules and asses, 41,648; other cattle, 4,856,500; sheep, 8,266,779; swine, 547,394; number of fleeces from 1,890,361,642. The second bulletin on the true valuation of real and other property shows that the total valuation in Nebraska was \$1,275,685,514, of which the real estate and improvements were \$1,212,022,000; mineral lands, \$63,663,514; and other property, \$99,999,999. The total valuation in Iowa was \$1,215,214,330; real estate and improvements, \$1,126,512,000; mineral lands, \$88,702,330; and other property, \$99,999,999. In Iowa the total valuation was \$1,215,214,330; real estate and improvements, \$1,126,512,000; mineral lands, \$88,702,330; and other property, \$99,999,999.

IN A GENERAL WAY.

The comptroller of currency has been advised during the past week of changes in Nebraska's national bank officers as follows: The First National of Fairbury, W. T. Newcomb president; A. P. Hazard vice; N. F. Commercial National of Fremont, no assistant cashier in place of S. J. Dunn. Nebraska fourth class postmasters were today appointed as follows: A. J. Shultz, Ames; H. C. county; O. C. Sammons vice F. A. Austin, resigned; B. C. Dodge county; Emma J. Schow vice Treva Thomson, resigned; Belvidere, Thayer county; A. P. Hazard vice N. F. House, resigned; Cushing, Howard county; W. E. Prettman vice Lizale Glass, resigned; Kilgore, Cherry county; Augustus Dan vice George Gillette, resigned; Seward, Adams county; William Batsch vice G. W. Fannon, resigned.

IN A GENERAL WAY.

Mr. H. H. Ryan at Spencer, McCook county, S. D., vice B. B. Robbins, resigned. Today was the thirty-fourth anniversary of the birth of Representative William Jennings Bryan of Lincoln, and he was not only heartily congratulated by his friends on the floor of the house, but he was given a surprise party at his residence tonight. Mrs. Bryan stood by the latter event while Mr. Bryan was absent in the west. She issued invitations to quite a number of Mr. Bryan's friends, and his home on Capitol Hill was overflowed by men and women from almost every state in the union, and especially from Nebraska. The occasion was one of great enjoyment, and was a splendid tribute to Mr. Bryan's personal popularity. It may have been all that Mrs. Bryan could have hoped for in the way of a compliment from her friends. There was music and a beautiful collation. The comptroller of the currency has declared a first dividend of 25 per cent to the creditors of the Citizens National bank of Grand Island on claims proved amounting to \$174,219. PERRY S. BHATH.

Taxing Income of the Poor.

Philadelphia Ledger: Members of the building societies all over the United States should bombard the senate with petitions for the restoration of the clause in the Wilson bill that exempted these societies from the income tax. The senate has struck out the exempting clause, thus laying a tax of 2 per cent on the hard earned savings of all the thrifty poor of the country. The Department of Labor recently estimated that there were 5,800 building associations in the United States represented in thirty or more states. The number of shareholders in these associations is 1,666,666, the net assets \$49,825,845, which would represent savings of about \$200 for each shareholder. And according to the wretched income tax proposition as amended in the senate, these thirty million people in a series of years they can save only \$90 apiece, are to be taxed because of their providence.

MISSOURI MONEY LIMITED.

House Votes to Restrict Improvements on the Big Muddy Next Summer.

Nebraska Delegation Makes a Gallant Fight for an Appropriation to Be Expended Here, but is Defeated by a Small Vote.

OMAHA WATER FRONT LEFT EXPOSED.

Washington Bureau of the Bee, 513 Fourteenth Street, Wash., D. C., March 19, 1894.

Upon the resumption of consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill in the house this afternoon the Nebraska delegation, led by Mr. Mercer, resumed their fight in favor of the expenditure of \$150,000 on the amount appropriated by the bill for continuing improvements of the Missouri river from Sioux City to its mouth. Mr. Halner made the principal speech in support of the proposed amendment. He reviewed the objects of the Missouri river commission and observed that the work being done by it seemed to be on the old theory that it was to promote navigation from Sioux City to the mouth, when in point of fact the commission was created and is maintained with a view to broadening and encouraging commerce over as well as upon the river. He stated that more commerce passed over the Missouri between Omaha and Council Bluffs every year than between Omaha and St. Louis. He stated that more commerce passed over the Missouri between Omaha and Council Bluffs every year than between Omaha and St. Louis. He stated that more commerce passed over the Missouri between Omaha and Council Bluffs every year than between Omaha and St. Louis.

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