

## THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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Alas! Such is fame. The Chicago Times is talking about "Mayor Weil of Omaha."

Query: What did Ambassador Bayard come all the way from London to Delaware for?

Wonder if there will be anything about "party peridy and dishonor" in Grover's coming message?

It looks as if the contest for the presidency of the new Board of Education were to be of the still hunt variety.

The woods seem to be full of retired republican statesmen who wish they hadn't gone out of politics quite so early.

Stealing elections is not very safe business down in Kansas City. Nor will it be very safe if it is attempted in any part of Nebraska.

There is no necessity for waiting until Thanksgiving before remembering the poor. Philanthropy counts just the same whenever it is manifested.

The railroad critics are howling for a contest on Governor-elect Holcomb seem to forget that contest is a game at which more than one can play.

When our alert federal authorities are able to apprehend Fast Thunder on twenty-four hours notice there can be no hope for Corked Lightning to escape their vigilance in the future.

We advise defeated candidates to take to the heels. It has been proved to afford the speediest means of getting from one point to another. It may perhaps be of service in getting away from the landslide.

No, it's no use trying to make a democrat understand why the salary of the Omaha postmaster was not been given over to some one of the faithful who have been so long and so patiently waiting and watching for it.

It is difficult for a defeated candidate to realize that the people have weighed him in the balance and found him wanting. The only sensible thing for him to do under such circumstances is to take his medicine and subside.

The Bee's certified election returns dispelled the last vestige of doubt as to the election of Judge Holcomb to be the next governor of Nebraska. If any one questions the exact figures invite him to call at this office and convince himself of their correctness.

We are told by some malicious person that everybody in Illinois is unanimously in favor of Mr. Medill for United States senator except the competing candidates and the members of the legislature who are to vote on the question. We don't and won't believe it.

There will not be enough money at the disposal of the city for intersection paving next year to go round. The property owners who want to make sure that their streets are paved or repaved will do well to come in early with their petitions and thus avoid being crowded out.

If Missouri were only to elect a new senator the coming year! With a clear republican majority in joint session of the legislature there might be some chance of having the state represented by a senator who would be in accord with the sentiments of a majority of their constituents.

Some of the country papers are advising their readers to remember the members of the defunct Business Men's association. We hardly think this is either necessary or advisable. That association really did the corporation candidate more harm than good. It ought not to be blamed for so meritorious an action.

The wedding of Clara Nicholas and Princess Alix this week will be an extraordinary event in royal life. It is seldom enough that an heir apparent of his own accord waits until after he has ascended the throne before entering wedlock. It has been some time since we have had a wedding involving personages so high in official life, and this one promises to be made memorable in all future history.

The official certificates of election, signed and sealed by county clerks, give Holcomb a plurality over Majors of 3,192 votes. The law provides that the candidate having received a plurality as shown on the face of the returns shall be seated and take the oath of office. We drop this tip to a number of pig-headed stakeholders who have no possible excuse for longer hanging on to the other fellows' money.

## IN THE SIXTH DISTRICT.

The report comes from Washington that Mr. Daugherty, the defeated republican candidate for congress in the Sixth Nebraska district, has signified to the republican congressional committee his intention to contest the seat to which Congressman Kem has been re-elected. We have not yet seen any specifications of the exact grounds of the proposed contest, but they are said to be general allegations of fraud in both the vote and the count. The Bee has supported the candidacy of Mr. Daugherty in the recent campaign consistently and energetically, and none would have rejoiced more sincerely had he come out victorious in the race. The Bee has nothing to gain from the re-election of Congressman Kem and nothing to lose should Mr. Daugherty be finally seated.

The Bee, however, has always stood for majority rule. It has always advocated honest elections and has insisted at all times upon a free ballot and a fair count. If upon a free ballot and a fair count Mr. Daugherty was really the choice of the majority of the legal voters of the Sixth district he should by all means be recognized as the representative of that district even if it requires contest proceedings to establish its claim. On the other hand, the more fact that the next day as will be overhangingly republican and that it will lie in the power of the republican members, should they so choose, to disregard the expressed wishes of the constituents of a particular district is no good reason why an unvarnished contest should be trumped up upon a totally inadequate basis. According to the returns from the Sixth district Mr. Kem's re-election is assured by some 1,500 plurality. It is not the size of the plurality that constitutes a candidate's election. It is rather the fact that he has received the votes of a majority of those voting upon that office, and if that majority were only one the principles of republican government require that the choice of the majority be accepted. It is true that there have been charges of fraud in the recent election in Nebraska, but the fraud, so far as proof has been submitted, is all on the part of the railroad managers and in behalf of the corporation candidate for governor. The returns prove beyond a reasonable doubt that thousands of men were brought into the state and colonized by railroad emissaries. A few thousands of these were doubtless carefully distributed over the Sixth district, for in no other way can we account for the large vote in those places which are known to have been partially depopulated as a result of crop failure due to the summer's drought. All these illegal voters were brought here in the interest of the head of the republican state ticket, and incidentally the republican candidate for congress may have profited more or less from the transaction. Certainly the opposing candidate could not have gained anything by it.

The question then is this: Would Mr. Daugherty feel justified in instituting contest proceedings before congress if the majority in that body consisted of democrats disposed to judge impartially between the claims of republicans and populists? Would he feel justified in pursuing this course if the republican majority in the house was only nine instead of ninety? The republican minority in the present house has protested most vehemently against the exercise on the part of the democrats of an authority to count out legally elected members of the minority party. We do not believe the republicans of the next house will venture to imitate what they have so strongly condemned in the democrats of the present house. Unless Mr. Daugherty relies upon something more substantial than the partisan zeal of the newly elected congress, he will make a grave mistake if he contests the seat of Congressman Kem.

## AN UNPROMISING PRACTICE.

One of the lessons of the late elections which men of all parties should learn and remember is that gerrymandering does not pay in the long run. Both the republican and the democratic parties have been guilty of this practice, the latter, however, more frequently and generally than the former, some of the gerrymanders made by the democrats during the last few years being of the most unjust and unwarrantable character. In nearly every northern state where that party controlled the legislature in the past four years it reappointed the congressional districts, without any regard to fairness or justice. Eight northern and western states were thus gerrymandered after the reverse of the republicans in 1890, the democrats gaining thereby upwards of fifty members of congress. Notable examples of the unscrupulous character of the work of the party in this respect were in New York, Indiana and Michigan.

The late election is properly regarded as furnishing a stinging rebuke of this practice. In every state where the democrats made an unfair apportionment in the expectation of maintaining their ascendancy in the congressional delegations they were overwhelmingly beaten, failing to elect any representatives in six of the states thus dealt with and electing only seven in the others. Before the election the hope of the democrats of retaining their control of congress was largely based upon the belief that the republicans could not regain their own in the gerrymandered states, and in republican quarters there was some doubt as to whether the unfair apportionments could be overcome. The political calculations on both sides failed to give due consideration to the people's sense of justice and fairness. The result showed that the people are not in sympathy with this sort of political juggling, and while they may sometimes appear to tolerate it in the long run they are certain to manifest their disapprobation.

Intelligent and fair-minded men, irrespective of their political affiliations, will not approve of a practice which is essentially dishonest and the purpose of which under all circumstances is to defeat the popular will. The American people like fair play, as well in politics as in every thing else, and any party makes a grave mistake which fails to recognize this fact and resorts to unfair methods in order to secure or retain power. It may achieve temporary success, but it is certain to

encounter popular reprobation sooner or later, and the more high-handed and culpable its methods the sooner will be the rebuke. It will be wise for the republican legislatures that are to apportion their states anew not to lose sight of this lesson of the late elections. The temptation may be strong to retaliate on the democrats by following their bad example, but such a course would be the most foolish possible. Republican legislatures in states where reapportionment must be made will strengthen the chances of the future success of the party by doing this work with such fairness and justice as to silence partisan objection and insure the approval of the people. Let there be a new departure in this matter and the republicans can gain in popular respect and confidence by making it. Whatever of this sort of fraud shall in future be practiced the democratic party should be allowed to monopolize.

## WHAT THE BUSINESS MEN DID.

A great deal has been said during the past month about the possible effects of the campaign waged by the Business Men's association of Omaha in behalf of the candidacy of T. J. Majors. The origin of this association, its methods and work (as far as it was exploit d by the Bee before election day). It was conclusively shown that a few depositors for railroad funds joined hands with a few leading business, railroad beneficiaries, and started upon a foolhardy plan for mixing business with politics. The association announced that something like 1,500 business men had signed the manifesto, whereas the Bee showed that less than 350 had done so. The Bee furthermore said it plain that the larger share of those who actually committed themselves to the plan did so under a misapprehension of its scope and purport, and when this paper demonstrated to them that a fatal blunder had been made, they for the most part did what any other class of honorable men would do, withdrew their support and charged the originators of the movement with having imposed upon them.

As the campaign progressed it became more and more apparent to the merchants of Omaha that business and politics would not mix. Railroad beneficiaries had tricked them into support of a policy at once damaging to their private business and to the trade of Omaha. They were quick to see the false attitude into which they had been placed. The result was that ten days prior to the election the Business Men's association suffered an almost total collapse. The bedraggled remnant stood as a monument to the short-sighted folly of a few corporation understrappers.

Shortly before the election the Bee tendered its counsel to the merchants and business men whose names had been mentioned in the corporation candidate's manifesto. This paper pointed the way out of the dilemma into which they had been led. They were asked to resist the treatment received and show by their votes that Omaha as the commercial metropolis of the state was not fighting the candidacy of the common people's chosen nominee. The official count shows that Mr. Bayard's advice was heeded and that the actual effect of the Business Men's association in Douglas county was that of a boomerang to its promoters; that it lost to the Majors column more votes than it gained.

A most remarkable feature of the election was the heavy vote given by Omaha and Douglas county to Silas A. Holcomb. We ask country merchants to consider the tremendous odds that confronted Holcomb's supporters in Douglas county. Here are located the headquarters of every railroad in the state. Here was located the headquarters of the republican committee which put up the greatest fight ever waged by a campaign committee in this state. He is the republican county and city central committees were actively at work for the whole ticket, carrying Majors from ward to ward, while there was absolutely no organization of the kind in support of Holcomb. Here the election boards were nine-tenths republican, with a mere smattering of Holcomb democrats. In this city the great power of the franchised corporations and of the Standard Oil company was exerted in behalf of Majors. And yet in the face of this unexampled opposition Judge Holcomb received 10,194 votes in Douglas county. Majors' plurality being but 448.

In view of these facts it cannot truthfully be said that the real merchants and business men of Omaha as a class opposed the candidacy of Silas A. Holcomb.

## THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

There are signs that a vigorous effort is to be made at the coming session of congress to secure legislation in the interest of the Nicaragua canal project. Officials of the canal company have been to Europe for the purpose of ascertaining what could be done there in the matter of obtaining funds for the enterprise, and according to reports no difficulty would be found in securing all the foreign capital necessary to complete the canal. These reports are to be taken with some grains of allowance, since it is quite possible they are put out for the purpose of influencing sentiment in this country in favor of government aid to the project. Very likely if satisfactory conditions were offered to foreign capitalists all the money required could be raised, but it is very doubtful whether such conditions can be offered consistently with the obligations of the company to Nicaragua, and whenever these cannot be fulfilled the Nicaraguan government will be pretty certain to resume possession of what it has granted, together with whatever property the canal company still retains. In that event Nicaragua might herself invite foreign capital to construct the canal, and she would probably get it.

An eastern journal has obtained and published the views of a considerable number of senators and representatives in congress upon the question whether the government should give financial aid to secure the early construction of the Nicaragua canal. All of them recognize the importance of the enterprise and with few exceptions favor government aid. Some go so far as to say that it ought to be built by the government, while others are more conservative and advocate only such aid by the government as would give the project a national character and place it under the control of the government. The pre-

dominating idea is that it should be distinctly an American work, owned, controlled and managed in the interest of American commerce.

It is impossible to say to what extent this view is endorsed by public sentiment. Possibly if the question were squarely presented to the American people whether the government should aid the enterprise in the way that has been proposed or it be allowed to pass into the control of foreign capitalists a majority of them would favor government aid, but it is not to be doubted that as the matter now stands there is a very strong sentiment against the government becoming financially involved in the canal. This is not due to any lack of appreciation of the value of the enterprise, the importance of which, commercially and otherwise, is admitted by all who have given the matter intelligent consideration. It is due to a conviction, drawn from the experience of the government in aiding private enterprises, that after having assumed the entire burden and responsibility the government in the end would be a loser. The bill introduced in the senate providing government aid for the Nicaragua canal seems to imply insure the government against loss, but nobody can presume to say that after the government assumed the proposed obligation the provisions of this measure would remain permanently unchanged. The canal company is getting ready to again urge this matter upon the attention of congress and timely public discussion of it is to be desired. There is no politics in the question, Senator Sherman being quite as earnest an advocate of government aid to the canal as Senator Morgan of Alabama.

## An American missionary in Asia

Minor must have the credit for giving the world the news of the terrible Armenian massacre which last week startled every civilized community. The informant, although his name has been withheld, runs a great risk of punishment at the hands of the Turks, who will omit no effort to discover his identity. The courage displayed in this unostentatious manner certainly deserves as much praise as any much admired display of physical endurance. When the Turkish government finds that it cannot permit such atrocities to occur with its tacit consent without having the horrible details published to all mankind and without inviting the interference of its more advanced and more powerful neighbors, it may realize the necessity of respecting at least the lives of its subjects. The service rendered by this American missionary cannot but be appreciated by all Americans.

## One of the first acts of the new city council

should be the passage of a general ordinance providing for the filling of vacant elective offices by appointment of the mayor for the interval until the next regular city election. The experience which we have had with the city clerkship can happen with many other offices. In this case just referred to the difficulty was met by a special ordinance which would be of no avail should another vacancy occur. The city ought to be in a position to meet emergencies of this kind promptly whenever and however they may happen.

## Can't Omaha furnish a few candidates

for the offices to be filled by the newly elected legislature? The rest of the state will be led to believe that Omaha is not doing her duty if she does not promise to send down to Lincoln a few secretaries of the senate and chief clerks of the house, not to mention postmasters, doorkeepers, committee clerks and general hangers-on.

## Fitted for Foreign Parts.

Washington Post. We understand that Mr. Bayard is to sail on Tuesday for his post at London, and we contemplate the arrangement with undiluted satisfaction. The only one who is so deferential, where the police are all professors of deportment, where the mighty and the superior are never shocked by vulgarity, and where the elegant hush of ten centuries of civilization breathes the upmost of the masses. Mr. Bayard will find the conditions best suited to his poetic temperament, and far behind the procession which has been moving, without even a hint of the masses, and grief, since he dropped out of it.

## Three Old Lessons.

New York World. There were three results in the recent elections that are instructive and encouraging.

A democratic governor was elected in California, the only one successful in a northern or western state, solely because he represented the people and not the railroad and the arrogant Southern Pacific railroad corporation in particular. The legislature was elected by a republican and the congressional delegation is solidly republican, but Mr. Budd was elected governor on an anti-monopoly issue.

Mr. Suizo was elected mayor of San Francisco on the same issue. He had no party nomination, but he represented a principle. He stood for the people and against the plutocrats of the Huntington type. And the people turned in and elected him.

In Nebraska the republican candidate for governor was defeated, the only man on his ticket who failed, because he was believed to be corrupt. The leading republican journal of that state, The Omaha Bee, denounced his nomination as one unit to be made. It exposed his character and the people rejected him—one of the many public services rendered this year by an honest and fearless press.

These three crumbles of comfort prove that local reforms for success often overcome a general tendency toward defeat. The voters do not stay at home when there is a sufficient inducement for them to come out. They do not go against their party when it challenges their support by candidates and a policy clearly in their interest.

## DOWN THE GREEN LANE.

Jennie E. T. Howe in the Century. Down the green lane she is coming, Alanna, with a smile on her face; The blue of the skies and the white of the clouds, The midnight within her dark hair; O Alanna, march, the sweet sight of thee A leap of the heart it giveth to me!

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