

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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GEORGE B. TSCHEURER, Notary Public.

Water pressure strong enough to burst a hydrant must have some little force after all.

One experience with a \$198 charity baby ought to be enough for our county commissioners.

The industry of manufacturing imaginary presidential states is gradually resum- ing its old-time prosperity.

The supreme court commission is a child of necessity. The legislature must take action to remove the necessity.

Why should one man have his suit passed upon by appointive supreme court commissioners and another his by judges elected and answerable to the people?

If the United States grand jury now in session in this city will do as well or half as well as the grand jury now in session at Sioux City there would be a rattling of bones among Moshers' old cronies and copraceners.

If Tom Murray would be satisfied with having a boulevard named after him, we should be inclined to favor the ancient purveyor of anchors, Noah's arks, stuffed bears, log chains, collars and articles out of general use.

If the Sugar trust does not soon re- sume operations in Washington some of the numerous candidates for United States senator in various states may be forced to conclude that a senatorship is not so attractive as it used to be.

Well, even if President Cleveland didn't write all of his message, he did nothing worse than a great many congressmen and senators who are addicted to the delivery of speeches carefully compiled for them at a stipulated price.

Council Bluffs is to have its electric lighting operated on the Philadelphia schedule at \$84 per lamp per year. We believe that reduced to an all night basis this is even cheaper than what Omaha is to have under its new contract.

Over \$5,000,000 have been taken from New York banks in the past ten years by dishonest employes. That is defalcation. The enormous amount taken from the people by the Sugar trust cannot be computed. That is commercial shrewdness.

It is a very serious problem whether any more villages should be incorporated within five miles of Omaha. The tendency everywhere else is for cities to annex suburban towns and villages and unite them under one municipal government.

We are now approaching the period when public bodies and public officials are making quiet preparations for turning over a new leaf. The indications are that several new leaves will be turned over in the court house and city hall with the advent of the new year.

Sioux City is to be congratulated upon the effective work of the grand jury that has just run down the gross frauds so long perpetrated by certain of its public officers. A few equally persistent and painstaking grand juries in some other western cities that we know of might perhaps earn the eternal gratitude of some fraud-ridden communities.

The regents of the State university ask for a special half-mill tax for two years only. Let them succeed in getting this additional revenue now and they will present equally plausible arguments for the continuance of the extra half-mill tax by the legislature two years hence and every succeeding two years thereafter, even if the grand assessment roll is doubled or trebled.

The action of the council in ordering one steam fire engine in addition to those already in use will be approved by the taxpayers. While three additional steamers were demanded by the insurance agents, the council is not in position to grant the request. If the contemplated improvement in the water-work system is carried out, there may also be no necessity for purchasing additional fire steamers.

As has been clearly set forth in The Bee, the great four makers of Minnesota are undertaking to crush out the millers of this state. Since the home patronage sentiment spread throughout this state Nebraska millers have been able to sell their product at home and the industry has flourished as never before. We hope the people of this city and state will continue to give preference to Nebraska-made flour.

MOSEHER'S PENITENTIARY CONTRACT

Once upon a time Boss Stout, the builder of the penitentiary and lessee of convict labor, offered to put the editor of The Bee on his pay roll as a matter of courtesy, but the generous tender was promptly declined with thanks. To a man up a tree it would look as if a similar offer from Moshers to Congress- man Bryan's editorial substitute on the World-Herald had not been spurned. The seal with which that person volun- teered to champion Moshers at the time the Douglas county jail scandals were the sensation of the hour left that impression, and this impression receives strong con- firmation by the alacrity with which he jumps into the breach on behalf of Moshers immediately on the heels of the publication of the Stout contract and the history of the transfer under which Dorgan now represents Moshers' interests in the penitentiary contract. It is still fresh in the memory of most people hereabouts how Moshers played the role of entangler at the time his illicit rela- tions with women of ill repute and his visits to low dives while he was pre- sumed to be in jail were the town talk by writing libelous letters, in which he sought to besmirch the editor of The Bee by baseless innuendoes. It was at that time, also, that the World-Herald was favored by Moshers with a copy of alleged testimony given by E. Rosewater before a legislative committee in 1891. This testimony is again relished to make it appear that the editor of The Bee favored the Moshers contract originally and volunteered to advocate Moshers' interests before the committee.

Even if this were literally true it would afford no justification for continuing the present contract. Moshers was presumed to be solvent in 1891 and in position to fulfill the contract and exercise the supervision which is pre- requisite on the part of the contractor. A great change has taken place since 1891. Moshers is not only bankrupt, but he is confined in the Sioux Falls penitentiary and therefore beyond the reach of process to compel him to live up to the conditions of the compact, and will not be in position to resume his rela- tions with the state before the time for which the contract runs. Manifestly, therefore, something must be done by the state to meet existing conditions. The object of the publication by The Bee was to place the incoming legisla- ture and administration in possession of the facts and in position to deal with the problem when it comes up for solu- tion.

The testimony of E. Rosewater was in no sense a defense of the contract or of Moshers. On the contrary, it is a candid and unbiased presentation of the facts as then known. The concluding part of the testimony throws sufficient light on this point. After discussing at some length the advantage and disad- vantage of convict labor, Mr. Rosewater said:

The state penitentiary should have been at Weeping Water, Beatrice, or some place where there is power and material on which these men could work, where an ordinary laborer could be set at work, where there was work any laborer could do. It will be necessary some day to remove the peniten- tiary to some other place. As it is now, the 40 cents a day, and the 30 or 40 cents he gets for subsisting the men, appears quite an amount. You could board a good many in a good hotel for that. And they had to be guarded. That is where the big expense comes in. You could not possibly make more than \$25,000 a year if you tried, because there are only 350 or 360 convicts, and if it is figured at the rate of 50 cents a day for each man he would be getting \$170 a day, and at the outside from \$500 to \$700 a week, and that, of course, would run all the way from \$25,000 to \$35,000 a year. It is a good income, but the state might lose the whole amount, and more.

That is the difficulty. One impro- vity is that it did not open the doors wide and invite other people to come in and compete for this extension.

Q.—The people had heard so much com- plaint in the past that they thought that there was a terrible steal in some place, and they got it from these papers, and we thought you could tell us all about it.

A.—I charged that Stout managed with the legislature every session. You could not legislate through and used up all the lands of the state given to the peniten- tiary and a great deal of other land, and gave a second rate lot of buildings when he had the contract to make improvements. I think since Mr. Moshers has been in that there has been a stoppage of that and they have got about all the water works they want.

Since that testimony was given Moshers has blossomed out into a more danger- ous oil room lobbyist and boodle dis- tributor than Bill Stout ever was reputed to be. He engineered the \$40,000 cell house job through the legisla- ture, tampered with the impeached state house officials, and finally brought on the smashup of the Capital National. It is just this deplorable state of affairs that forces itself upon the next legisla- ture.

Another point upon which new light has been shed since 1891 is the validity of the Moshers transfer. It was first assumed to be legal, but very eminent attorneys now assert that the act of the legislature was null and void because it was a usurpation of executive powers and did not provide for competing bids.

AS TO THE FIRE CHIEF. The retirement of Chief Galligan, after fully twenty years' hard service, com- pels the fire and police commission to appoint a new fire chief. The council and business men's committee, which has had the question of better fire pro- tection in hand, has reached the conclu- sion that the efficiency of the depart- ment will be best promoted by the selec- tion of a chief from among the fire de- partment officers in one of the larger cities. As might have been expected, there is much opposition to the importa- tion of a man from the outside before the officer next in rank to Chief Galli- gan has been given a chance to show his capacity for running the department. All things being equal, there is no doubt that this should have been the policy in filling the vacancy. There is a good deal in holding out the prospect of pro- motion of men from the lowest rung in the ladder to the top.

As against this view the advocates of a new man from outside point to the fact that the Board of Education has imported superintendents from the outside every time there has been a vacan-

cy, because the position requires ex- ceutive ability and experience of a high order, of which no public school man in Omaha was possessed. It is also urged that we cannot afford to take chances in experimenting. Assuming that Mr. Salter is well qualified to handle an ordinary fire, it is urged that he lacks executive ability and has com- paratively no knowledge as to the disci- pline which prevails in the large cities. There is much to be said on both sides of this controversy, and it remains for the commission to get the best solution of the problem.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT RATE CASE

A rate case of but little less im- portance than the one which involved the enforcement of the Nebraska maxi- mum freight rate law is to come up for hearing next month before the judges of the federal circuit court for the dis- trict of southern Ohio. This case turns not upon the power of a state legisla- ture to enact measures for the control and regulation of railroads operating within their jurisdiction, but upon the correct interpretation of the provisions of the interstate commerce act. Com- plaint seems to have been made some months ago through Commissioner Igle- hart of the Chicago freight bureau that the merchants of that city were, as com- pared with New York shippers, being subjected to flagrant discriminations in the matter of rates on goods trans- ported by the southern lines. The inter- state commerce commissioners listened to the evidence that was brought before them and came to the conclusion that the Chicago merchants were justly en- titled to relief. The roads, as was naturally to have been expected, re- fused to obey the order of the commis- sioners to reduce rates, and the present proceedings have been instituted in ac- cordance with the federal statute to compel obedience by the railroads. The suit is expected to open up the whole question of the powers of the commis- sioners to enforce their decrees, and to result in the importance attached to the result that the attorney general has engaged ex-Senator Edmunds to appear for him on behalf of the commissioners in conjunction with the district attorney of the district and the attorneys for the Chicago and Cincinnati freight bureaus, while the interests of the railroads will of course be looked after by their regu- larly employed attorneys.

The Southern rate case has more sig- nificance than the particular rates di- rectly affected, although those are quite momentous enough. It is asserted that should the interstate commission make good its claim, the authority exer- cised in making this order the gain in trade for Chicago would amount to not less than \$15,000,000 annually. Cincinnati and the other distributing points for southern business would make proportionate gains and all these gains would be at the expense of New York, which now occupies the point of ad- vantage. We, furthermore, have a repetition of the cry that should this case be finally determined adversely to the interstate commission that body may as well disband for all the actual results that it can accomplish. We have heard this cry so often in connection with former rate controversies that we must be excused for insisting on ac- cepting it at a discount. The commis- sion will certainly continue operations whatever the outcome, but its usef- ulness would unquestionably be materi- ally impaired by a defeat in its con- tention. The decision will let us know just where the interstate commission stands and at least indicate the direc- tion further congressional legislation ought to take, if such legislation is necessary.

A TREATY WITH JAPAN

Japan has assumed a place of ques- tioned prominence among the nations and it is obviously her destiny to attain much greater importance and influence. Already the arbiters in the Orient there is every reason to expect that in the years to come the island empire will make itself felt over a wider area of the globe, exerting influence upon the affairs of western as well as eastern nations. No country has a larger interest than the United States in the develop- ment of Japanese power and in the material progress of the empire. The American people have peculiar reasons for sympathizing with the spirit and aims of the Japanese. The political in- stitutions of the eastern nation are to a large extent fashioned upon ours and that country has looked to the United States for precept and example. There has always been a strong feeling of friendship between the two countries and it is manifestly in the interest of both that it be maintained, and if that be possible, made stronger.

This country was a little slower than England in negotiating a treaty with Japan, but the one which has been con- cluded and now awaits ratification by the senate is sufficiently timely as well as highly satisfactory in its terms. By it the United States recognizes the position of Japan among the nations and ac- cords to her every consideration that is shown to the most favored nations. The citizen of Japan visiting or residing in the United States will enjoy equal privileges and protection with the citizen of any European country. No restrictions of any kind are imposed and no conditions required differ- ent from those in the case of the people of the most favored nations. In the matter of commercial relations, in- vision is made for the utmost reciprocal freedom consistent with existing laws. The citizens or subjects of the contract- ing parties have liberty to come with their ships and cargoes to all places, ports and rivers in the territory of the other open to foreign commerce, and shall enjoy, respectively, the same treat- ment in matters of commerce and navigation as native citizens or subjects, or citizens or subjects of the most favored nation. All the possessions of citizens of each of the contracting parties in the territory of the other shall be re- spected, and the citizens and subjects of the contracting parties are to enjoy in the territory of the other exemption from all transit duties and a perfect equality of treatment with native citi- zens or subjects in all that relates to warehousing, bounties, facilities and drawbacks. Neither country will make any discrimination against the other in

AUDITOR MOORE'S REVELATIONS

Frontier Herald: Why not check up the books in the office of the secretary of state? Western Wave: The auditor of state, Hon. Eugene Moore, is winning the plaudits of an immense constituency by his fearless ex- posure of reckless and wanton expenditures of public funds by some of our so-called non-member makers. Moore very ably recommends reform in several instances where it seems to be sadly wanting. Blair Pilot: All eyes are now turned towards the coming session of the legislature, and the people are wondering if there will be as much waste and extravagance as there has been in the past several sessions. When it comes to each member using six jack-knives, two pairs of shears, 118 pencils, six- teen penholders, one gallon of ink and nearly two quarts of paper, it seems time to call a halt. Blair Pilot: It is well for Nebraska that one state official has the nerve and independ- ence to "speak out in meeting." The report of State Auditor Eugene Moore, which ap- pears in full in The Bee, should not only open the eyes of the people, but they should study its disclosures, but they should insist that their members-elect to the legislature make themselves familiar with it and give heed to its teachings.

Seward Reporter: Auditor Moore, in his report to the governor, shows numerous places where the money of the state might be han- dled with more care and economy. In special attention to the expenses of the legislative ses- sion. He has compiled a table of incidental expenses of the sessions of 1891 and 1893, which contains some rather startling facts. Dozens of items are specified in which it seems that state funds have been recklessly expended for each member's private uses. Reforms are necessary, and Mr. Moore knows how to point them out.

Grand Island Independent: State Auditor Moore has done a good service to the people, drawing in his report attention to the abominable extravagance of furnishing to the members of the legislature such a host of "jack-knives, inkstands (some of them at \$18 each), gavel at \$20 each, safes, step-ladders, barrels of oil, dictionaries, hammers, bolts, axes of soap, leather valises, ropes, chains, hinges, plate glass, thermometers, mirrors and other similar purchases, which tends to the belief that the public funds are being used for the most wasteful purposes, and these seem to be largely contracted for and bought prior to the convening of the session of the legislature and without any special authority therefor being provided by law. And the auditor might have added that a great many of these things, if not most of them, are carried away (to use a polite ex- pression) at the legislative session by many legislators of a grasping disposition. This annexation fever our statesmen have prob- ably caught from the great European states- men, and they are carrying it to our own country, doing it not for the benefit of their country and not for their personal gain. Our representatives ought to give up this habit.

Geneva Journal: The worst leak in the legislative expenses has been in the employ- ment of high-priced clerks, typewriters, proof readers, etc. Generally not more than half of these pretend to do much work and often many of them are utterly incompetent to perform the class of work required if they are paid the rates named in the list. These get places in payment for political services of one kind and another, but a majority of these idlers are generally women who are provided with places without any expectation that they will perform much labor for the benefit of the state. This is a serious thing to say, but it is absolutely true. At every session there are a number of intelligent and able women doing the necessary work of the session as clerks, typewriters, etc., and a woman has as much right to work for the state as any man, and she will be compelled to alter the fact stated above. Now what the people of Nebraska hope to see this winter is a strict compliance with the law prescrib- ing that only men shall be employed in the selection of men and women who are expected to earn their salaries, and a refusal to purchase or audit claims for thousands of dollars worth of things that the members cannot possibly use legitimately as the state's law makers. So far as this paper is concerned, it proposes to inform its readers of every deviation from correct business practices that it learns of. The last two sessions were controlled by the populists, but the politics of the members should make no difference in the treatment of the people of the state. A very few can provide for themselves, controlled by republicans, were some of them bad enough in all conscience.

BEST NONSENSE

Siftings: It is common for a man to bring up his niece, but what do you think of a woman who raises his ante?

Buffalo Courier: Bangs—I'd give a good deal to know how he feels to be dragged and robbed. Birthers—Why don't you go and get a prescription filled, then?

Syracuse Post: Voice at the head of the stage—George, have you been drinking? George—No'm. Voice—Sixty christmases. George (silent for a moment)—I'm drunk, my dear!

Boston Courier: New Yorker (sneer- ingly) thought I was going to have an elevated road in Boston? Hubb Tru- bitt's have lots of them; in fact, every- thing about Boston is elevated.

Cincinnati Tribune: Mrs. Wickwire—Do you know that the doctors say that too con- stant piano practice is likely to produce curvature of the spine? Mr. Wickwire: Didn't know it before, but I don't doubt it. At least, it makes the neighbors get their backs up.

Syracuse Courier: Mrs. Workman—But George is so good to his workmen. Ben- theners—How do you know? "Why, he was talking in his sleep last night, and he said: 'Jim, I'll raise you ten!' And in these hard times, too!"

Puck: Mrs. Fidgets—O, John, did you hear the awful thing that happened to that young man next door who practiced on the flute? Well, he was crossing the track of a street car, and—O! It's too horrible to tell the rest.

Mr. Fidgets (excitedly)—What! Wasn't he killed?

GET A HUSTLE ON. New York Press: Pluck brings its reward; Reverses don't kill; If fate be on your side, Strike back with a will; Let it do what it can, Stick to it up your chin, For the world loves a man Who never gives in.

Hurray for Jay and Fritz. Kansas City Times: The recent Nebraska has brought to the front two statesmen whose names will go down in history side by side with such political celebrities as Ed. Ivis- tume and Colonel Ratio Rose. In Thurston county the defeated republican candidate for the legislature, is contesting the election of Nick Fritz, the successful democrat. Georgia has never had Ivis- tume and Missouri her Ratio Rose, but Thurston county is satisfied to embazon its banners in honor two favorite sons—Mel Jay and Nick Fritz.

Stick a Peg There. Indianapolis Journal: It is worth while to note the fact that, under the leadership of the Hon. Geo. F. Johnson of the Nebraska delegation in the Transmississippi congress was opposed to the free coinage of silver.

HIGHEST OF ALL IN LEAVENING POWER.—LATEST U. S. GOV'T REPORT

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

HINTS FOR LEGISLATORS

Stanton Register: The people of Nebraska expect the legislature to pass some kind of a railroad bill. They should give us a law that can be justly sustained.

O'Neill Sun: The legislature ought to try and devise some method of counting the ballots at elections. It is expensative to have a clerk for nearly a whole week before we can be sure that the people have voted.

Fullerton News: The idea of publishing the session laws of the legislature in two newspapers of each county is being strongly advocated throughout the state. This would be a good plan to keep the people informed on the doings of the legislature. In no other way could the same money be expended to do so much good.

Premont Tribune: Whatever the legisla- ture does this winter it must always keep in mind the necessity of strict economy and see to it that if a wise economy makes it necessary to run a larger fund than is possible under our present revenue law, then the auditor's suggestion that it be amended so as to provide for a larger fund should be heeded.

Lincoln News: There is good food for thought in the very fact that Omaha proposes to change its method of assessing by assessing all property at about one-half its actual value instead of one-tenth which compel Lincoln to follow suit. This plan will reduce the tax rate to 10 mills, and the good results that will certainly follow should in- duce Lincoln to join hands with Omaha and secure the benefits of the same.

Hastings Tribune: It is probable that the next Nebraska legislature will in a measure restore the bounty upon beet sugar. If so, provision should be made by which the largest share of the bounty would be paid to the farmer who raises the beets. The growing of sugar beets needs more encouragement than the manufacture of the sugar. The farmer who raises the beets is the man who does the hard work, while the man who manufactures the sugar is thoroughly understood and is no longer an experiment.

Geneva Journal: I hope the legislature to convene the first of next month will do the business of the session as they would at their own private business. It is truly said that "custom makes law." In some instances, but not in making a legislature a disgrace to the state and to every principle of sound business economy should be abandoned, and the large republican majority in the legislature can firmly in- trench the republican party in its control of the state government by being honest, economic and saving wood instead of playing horses for two-thirds of the session.

Chadron Signal: This paper cordially sec- onds the motion of Brother Paradis of the Hemingford Oaize for an amendment to our election law providing for representa- tive districts in the county at large. Perhaps the outline of a bill pre- sented two years ago by the Signal will be of interest now. It is this: Abolish the county at large system for electing legisla- tive. Divide the election board as nearly as possible pro rata among the different parties according to the average vote at the last election. The county clerk to vote 20 per cent of the precinct vote in order to entitle it to one representative on the election board. Let the party caucus elect the party repre- sentatives to the legislature, and certify them to the county clerk as they do other nominations.

Grand Island Independent: The members of the coming legislature are keeping an eye on the Hall county delegation, regarding any legislation which may affect the future of the beet sugar industry in Nebraska. So vigorously did the former members of this county fight for the preservation of the legislators that the remainder of the state had begun to believe that sugar beet raising was the only business to support in this county. The independent parties, who more beet have been raised than in any county not in close proximity to the factory, an entirely different sentiment exists. The Stand- are Cattle company at Ames alone has had from 700 to 1,000 acres each year, and has fifty teams at work now in their immense fields cultivating the soil and fertilizing, preparatory for another season. It is also learned from one of the exchanges that a bill is being prepared in that county, to be presented at the next session, that will give \$1 per ton bounty to the farmer—which, with the \$4 per ton the Oxlands are paying, would make the same price as paid last year. How- ever, while the independent parties, who more beet have been raised than in any county not in close proximity to the factory, an entirely different sentiment exists. The Stand- are Cattle company at Ames alone has had from 700 to 1,000 acres each year, and has fifty teams at work now in their immense fields cultivating the soil and fertilizing, preparatory for another season. It is also learned from one of the exchanges that a bill is being prepared in that county, to be presented at the next session, that will give \$1 per ton bounty to the farmer—which, with the \$4 per ton the Oxlands are paying, would make the same price as paid last year. 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