

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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PUSHING THE FUNDING SCHEME.

The senate committee on Pacific railroads, presided over by Calvin S. Breece, who is also chairman of one of the reorganization committees of the bondholders of the Union Pacific, is so anxious to announce in advance its adhesion to the Reilly funding bill...

It is this one idea that is controlling every action of the promoters of the funding scheme. The receivers have been cutting down the service, discharging men and closing repair shops in order to make the condition of the road appear to be as bad as possible.

Simultaneously with this suits have been brought in the federal court to foreclose the first mortgage bonds in the interest of their owners and to the entire exclusion of the government claims.

With these threats on one side the report of the Breece committee is thrown out as a bait on the other. It is in effect said to the house that it must pass the Reilly bill as agreed to by the Wall Street magnates or no other bill will get favorable consideration in the senate.

There is room for some good-sized lumps of reform in the state printing work. Padded reports and the publication of unnecessary matter are swelling the bills for printing beyond all reason.

The expenses of maintaining the municipal administration of Omaha have increased five fold in the last ten years. Who will venture to assert that the work performed has increased in the same ratio?

There is some danger that the people of Brooklyn will become so accustomed to walking during the pendency of the great street railway strike that it will take a long time to get them to resume their patronage of the street cars.

Senator Hill advises democrats to cease their factional quarrels. Mr. Hill felt some of the results of the democratic policy when he was snowed under as candidate for governor in New York. His advice should have come a little sooner.

It is to Senator Pettigrew that President Cleveland owes his rescue from the threatened defeat of the resolution approving the course of his administration in Hawaii. Senator Pettigrew ought now to be able to go up to the white house and not only ask for what he wants, but also get it.

The people of South Dakota are finding that some of their county treasurers have followed the example of their defaulting state treasurer in using public funds for unsafe investments, and that they are the ones to suffer in every instance.

Twenty-five years ago 10 cents a mile was considered a very exorbitant charge on the railroads. Now 3 cents a mile is considered excessive, but the mileage rate to sherriffs, bailiffs and county officers is still 10 cents a mile, even where the officers are traveling on railroad passes.

Chairman Wilson insists that instead of bankruptcy staring the government in the face we are moving steadily and persistently toward a surplus. The United States will have no difficulty in staying off a bankruptcy, but it will not be the fault of the present democratic congress. As to moving toward a surplus through constant deficits, that is certainly a novel plan.

Rev. Luther P. Ludden has now gotten to sign himself as "general manager" of the Nebraska State Relief commission. When the commission was first reorganized it was given out that the officers were the customary ones of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, with Mr. Ludden holding the position of secretary. It has been apparent for some time that the head, body and limbs of the commission were all combined in Mr. Ludden, but it is only within the last two or three days that he has assumed a title commensurate with his manifold activities.

menaced, but that there is danger of the currency system of the country being weakened and corrupted. The tendency to make concessions for the silver men gives warrant for this feeling. It is very probable that the creation of a currency commission composed principally of men of well known sound money views would have the effect of allaying the feeling of distrust abroad, and such a result would have material advantages.

The trouble is, however, that the silver men in congress will probably not permit such a measure as that proposed to pass. They seem determined to obstruct every proposition which does not make the concessions which they desire and they are strong enough to defeat any measure not satisfactory to them. In order to pass a bill creating a currency commission it would doubtless be necessary to guarantee the silver men a large representation on it.

THE BURLINGTON JOURNAL.

The Burlington Journal, which for some months past has been contesting the bogus claim of the Omaha Fake Mill to "largest circulation in Nebraska," offered a premium of \$5 for the best answer to the conundrum: "Why has the State Journal the largest circulation in Nebraska?"

One of the competitors for the prize made the following answer: "Because it always tells the truth!" Now, everybody would naturally have expected that the genius who wrote this terse composition would carry off the prize at sight, but he did not get it. Moral: Don't tell a lie when you know it is a lie.

As a matter of fact, The Omaha Evening Bee alone circulates twice as many papers in Nebraska as the B. & M. organ, that is, providing Omaha is in Nebraska. And The Morning Bee has a larger circulation in Iowa than the Journal has in Nebraska, admitting that Council Bluffs is in Iowa.

WRESTLING WITH A PROBLEM.

The city council, Board of Education and county commissioners are confronted with a problem. The city and county taxes have become almost unbearable and property owners cannot stand an increase in the face of business depression and ruinous decline in real estate values and rentals.

While the community is willing and anxious to inaugurate public improvements that will give employment to labor and stimulate a revival of prosperity, the universal cry is for retrenchment and greater economy in all departments. The problem is how to maintain efficiency and do the essential work with the limited revenues at the disposal of the city, county and school board.

We believe they can, providing the mayor, council and police commission will muster courage enough to reorganize the police and fire forces on the line of imperative necessity. They should organize these forces on the basis of service and merit. This can only be done by making the charter more elastic in regard to the pay of policemen and firemen. The charter places all policemen on the same pay, whether they serve one month or ten years.

Among the numerous financial propositions which have been introduced in congress, one of them contemplates the creation of a commission to consider and investigate all the questions relating to the currency of the United States, so far as the same may be necessary, to the establishment of a judicious system of currency upon a permanent basis. It is provided that the commission shall consist of twelve persons, and it is to report its conclusions to congress not later than the second Monday in December of the present year.

With such a sliding scale the force could be materially increased without exceeding the levy. The same principle should govern the Board of Education in regard to teachers. The board should furthermore retrench by lopping off funds and high-priced favorites that can be dispensed with without injury to the schools.

The county board has already made a creditable exhibit of retrenchment, but there is room for material saving in readjusting salaries to the scale that now prevails in banks and in mercantile houses. This applies with greater force to the city hall, where clerks who could not earn \$60 a month anywhere are getting \$1,800 a year.

The Bee has always favored liberal salaries to public officers, but there is no excuse for squandering money, especially at a time when every dollar is as large as a cart wheel and hundreds of taxpayers cannot earn enough to pay living expenses.

SENATORIAL VOTE DODGERS.

It is not generally supposed that the senatorial elections in the different states have any direct influence upon pending legislation. Such an influence, however, is exerted and we are afforded an instance of it in the recent career of the pooling bill in congress. One of the best informed newspaper correspondents at Washington explains the delayed appearance of the report of the senate committee to which it was referred by saying that the committee was purposely withholding it from the senate until the various contests for re-election should be out of the way.

A number of senators whose assistance is highly desirable were anxious to avoid putting themselves on record on any railroad legislation so long as they were posing as candidates for the favor of their legislatures. So soon as these senators who object or pretend to object to legislative concessions to the railroads had set themselves right before their constituents there was no longer reason for further delay.

their delay until after those contests have been closed, and, doubtless will, have appreciable results on the vote which will receive when they do come up. It is probably impossible to prevent such political maneuvers in the senate, but they will certainly be checked if the senators know that their actions are understood and watched.

The whole question of city debt limit rests upon the returns made by the tax assessors. If we had an accurate valuation of property, as the revenue law requires, we would never have been under the necessity of exempting particular kinds of bonds from the operation of the limiting clause. A low tax valuation and a low limit of indebtedness go hand in hand, and likewise the reverse. Give an honest assessment of taxable property and the city debt limit will adjust itself automatically to existing demands.

Perhaps Senator Hill is trying to work up a boom for himself as President Cleveland's next secretary of the treasury.

Girl Not Greatness. Galveston News. Let us rid ourselves of the impression that one girl is the measure of our greatness.

Friends in Time of Need. St. Paul Pioneer Press. Corporations have no soul, it is said, but they are frequently in a worse case than money is the cause of the crime, as in this one.

Good Thing, Push It Along. Kansas City Star. Investigations of municipal governments are becoming "this thing" all over the country.

No Obstacle in the Way. Globe-Democrat. The country is not clamoring for a national board of arbitration, or for any legislation upon the subject.

Compares with New Orleans. Philadelphia Ledger. Reports of the cholera epidemic come to hand with their usual monotony. This time 12,000 Chinese have been routed near Hanoi.

More Scared Than Hurt. Philadelphia Record. Letter-day medicine has been responsible for two prevalent public scares—the germ theory of cholera and the germ theory of typhoid fever.

Deficient in the Art of Kicking. Detroit Free Press. It is the custom in American hoast that we excel in hitting, but not in kicking.

PEOPLE AND THINGS. Ex-Governor Hogg is about to take to the pen. The lamentations of the cuckoos are accentuated by reason of their inability to catch on to the new birdie.

A bill is pending in the Montana legislature prohibiting gambling on the ground floor. Montana reformers believe in going up higher.

Sleeping car regulation bills have been introduced in congress. Some of Mr. Pullman's annuals evidently miscarried.

Perhaps the near approach of dissolution accounts for the failure of congress to place the administration of the responsibility for the Brooklyn strike.

Queen Liliouokalani is encouraged in her revolt. They prevent her visiting with a great one, but not only nearly Americans on short acquaintance.

W. F. Wilcox, father of the leader of the Hawaiian revolt, resides at Newport, R. I. At last accounts he was not determined to visit his father on the island.

Five million barrels of beer were consumed in New York City last year. Two and one-half million barrels of beer were consumed in Boston.

Green goods men introduced several bogus bills in the Indiana legislature and the members of the legislature exchanged genuine stuff for them. These sharpers missed their calling. They ought to join the lobby.

Your municipal depravity is greater even than that of New York, and Dr. Parkhurst in Chicago. And he was roundly applauded. Any claim of superiority over Gotham tickles Chicago pride.

China apparently rejected Japan's original overture regarding Korea and declined the assumption of the little fellow. Mexico might extract a few valuable lessons from China's experience, without firing a gun.

Brooklyn offered prizes some time ago for a battery system which would dispense with overhead wires. Governor Morton responded with a few batteries, but they are not likely to secure the prize. Still, their claims are sufficient to insure respectful consideration at a distance.

Mr. Reed's prominence as a possible candidate for the presidency has stimulated his correspondence to a point where it has become burdensome. He has had a number of letters every day, most of them assuring him of success, and it takes the greater part of his time to attend to them.

It was a mistake to pursue the discussion of the question whether Mr. Thomas C. Platt is a fit person to put in control of the republican party in this city and state.

Marion Crawford's father started in life as a wood carver, and by a curious freak of fate he designed the handsome mantle in the house of his future father-in-law, Mr. Ward, on Bond street, New York.

Later in life, when he was a sculptor in Rome, he met Miss Louisa Ward, wooed her and soon married her. The novelist was born abroad.

A servant whose eyesight had been cut out by a fall from a ladder, and who was blind and black, had just been given a new pair of eyes.

He carried them in a room, applied the black jack, and made away with \$600. The police had been watching him, took away the money and an enlightened court taxed him \$40 for carrying concealed weapons. It is a rare foggy day on the Jersey coast gets a left on a green coat.

BARRETT SCOTT AND HIS MURDER.

Justice Democrat. It is hoped for the good name of the state that the guilty parties may be brought to speedy justice. Columbus Telegram: Now let the cowardly assassins of this man be hunted down all thoroughly convinced that these fakers were only prophets of Babel.

Burt County Herald: Every law abiding citizen must join in the hope that the guilty party will be ferreted out and brought to justice. Dakota City Eagle: It is to be hoped that justice will be meted out to every person who has in any manner connected with the disgraceful affair.

Weeping Water Republican: The highway murder is one of the worst outrages that has ever been perpetrated in this state and the guilty parties should be summarily punished. Central City Nonpareil: Barrett Scott has paid the penalty for his wrong doing with his life, but what has Holt county gained except an increased expenditure of funds?

Minden Gazette: He was an inexcusable criminal and his death offers no excuse for his cold blooded murder. It is hoped those who were guilty of it will also meet the punishment they deserve. Red Cloud Golden Belt: Admitting the worst that can be said of Barrett Scott the men who murdered him are simply murderers incapable of ever determining what is right or what is just.

Shelton Clipper: While Barrett Scott's defilement cannot be condoned, his assassination was a thousand times worse, and it who says that murderers are justice brought promptly to justice without the expensive delay usual in such cases.

Cedar Rapids Commercial: This tragedy is a blot on the fair name of Nebraska that will be long remembered. It is a blot on the honor of Nebraska that will be long remembered. It is a blot on the honor of Nebraska that will be long remembered.

Seward Reporter: It is greatly to be hoped that the men guilty of the murder will be properly punished for the crime. No matter how strong the provocation, the killing of Scott by a self-constituted band of lawless men was a crime against the law, and the perpetrators of this crime should be ferreted out and punished as they deserve.

Blair County Signal: It is true that Scott had committed a crime, and it is true that he should have been punished according to law, but mob law was not the way to deal with the crime.

North Bend Argus: Many people became incensed at the many wrongs which had been committed by Barrett Scott, and they were justified in their indignation. But the law is the law, and the perpetrators of this crime should be ferreted out and punished as they deserve.

Kearney Hub: There can be no higher or more imperative duty devolving upon the people of Holt county than to see that the conviction and punishment of the murderers of Barrett Scott. The crime is one that for brutally stands almost without parallel in the history of the state.

Auburn Granger: As the case now stands people of Holt county are out of the \$70,000, her fair name has been disgraced because of the fact that justice was not done.

Tekamah Burialman: There is no doubt much more sympathy expressed for the late Barrett Scott than is really felt. This looting of public treasuries is becoming a trifle monotonous. The defaulting treasurer of Holt county, the aristocratic Judge Strode, died an ignominious death at the hands of a mob.

Stanton Pickett: There is no argument that can be proposed in justification of the murder of Barrett Scott. If the outrage was committed by Scott's political enemies, composed of destitute farmers who had been robbed of their hard earnings and whose families were in need of unreasonable taxation, only to see it stolen from the county by Scott, and then to see the law of the state in dealing with him, makes it easy to understand how they may have been goaded to reckless desperation, and then to have him appear among them as a murderer.

Malison Reporter: Outside of all considerations of religion, of conscience and duty, it is true and profitable as an axiom of life, physically, mentally, morally and spiritually, that what man sows he shall reap, and the fate of Barrett Scott is an awful example. They were wrong, murderously wrong, who murdered him. Scott was wrong. It was all wrong, but so long as human nature is what it is one wrong will follow another.

That's the way in the idea that one wrong paves the way to another, and includes the innocent as well as the guilty. Revolutions and mobs and strikes and lynchings in all ages have been a result of this. Some one started a fire, and presently it destroys a city, including the one that started it; some one appears among them as a murderer.

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VOICE OF THE STATE PRESS.

Superior Journal: There is one blessing that has come of the great drought of last year. It has forever choked off the rainmaking fraud. The farmers who heretofore had been duped by them are all thoroughly convinced that these fakers were only prophets of Babel.

Columbus Journal: Regulate telephone charges! Well, in the name of conscience, why not? Is there any corporation that is more exacting in its charge for services and does anybody know of a single good reason why they should not be subjected to a schedule of reasonable rates, the same as a railroad company?

Norfolk Journal: It is to be hoped that State Auditor Moore will stick to his determination to issue warrants to no more than the statutory number of legislative employees, and let the matter be fought out in the courts. If a body of men elected to make laws have a right to override and violate the law, it is time the public should know that fact.

McCook Tribune: The present legislature should enact a law that will give proper encouragement and the widest scope possible for the advancement of the state. All admit this much. Proper legislation is imperative. It is quite necessary that a look-out be kept for jobbery. It is essential for legislators to favor that point anyway.

Geneva Journal: Auditor Moore was right in announcing that he would not draw warrants for more employees for the legislature than the number specified in the statute. He is allowed in each house. The auditor is not a court, and he can simply judge the number of legislative employees that should be allowed in each house.

Weeping Water Republican: Omaha has secured the state fair for the next five years. The new grounds will be located at West Omaha, and will be a great benefit to the passengers on the Missouri Pacific who wish to attend. Omaha made a magnificent offer to secure the location of the exhibition in 1895, and now that it is made, it is making a hard kick over the matter, but she did not make any noticeable effort beforehand as she doubtless thought the commission would favor that point anyway.

Grand Island Independent: The republicans in the legislature are doing all in their power to hurt the republican party. The cause of the republicans is the railroad and extravagance party. The republican majority of the senate has insisted on keeping the 100 employees of the senate, though the law says there shall be only sixty-six. It is a ridiculous assertion that three employees for each member of the senate are required. Twenty-three senators would be the illegal extravagance scheme, and we are sorry to say that our Senator Caldwell was among them.

Lincoln News: The cause of the frequent secret meetings of the county treasurers is the cause of the frequent secret meetings of the county treasurers. A bill has been introduced for the repeal of the law relating to county depositories, although there is apparently no good reason why well as there should be only sixty-six. It is a ridiculous assertion that three employees for each member of the senate are required.

Blair Pilot: State Auditor Eugene Moore has demonstrated his integrity and fearlessness in the people's interest in a way that all good citizens will applaud. The constitution provides that the senate shall not exceed 100 members, and the number now is largely a matter of individual merit.

Washington Star: "I see," said Mrs. Corn-tassel, "that people in Washington think that the gas is an expensive." "They're right," replied her husband. "They ain't no congressman in ten that earns \$5,000 a year."

MELANCHOLY. Detroit Free Press. There is only a snowdrift, deep and cold. There is only a misty gloom. O'er the leafless branches of a cherished mold Where the roses used to bloom. There's only a man with his nose aglow; With pick and shovel and broom. He chases the slabs of ice and snow Where the roses used to bloom.

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THE CAUCUS CORRAL.

Lincoln News: Some of the republican leaders who have not been very successful in leading the republican members of the house about with a string are now agitating the holding of a caucus through which legislation is to be directed. While there is no doubt but that this would materially expedite matters it is doubtful if it would be a very good thing for the people.

Rule by caucus is a relic of barbarism, and no man can honestly serve his constituents and be on good terms with his conscience if he permits his public acts to be regulated by the steering committee of a caucus. It is noticeable that the majority of those who are favorably agitating the caucus plan of legislation are those who have displayed the corporation tag on their collars, and are evidently desirous of adopting this plan of procedure, which will tend to keep the tag securely anchored under the vest.

Nothing could be more vicious than the caucus plan of enacting legislation. It was the method adopted by the populists in the last two sessions and does not commend itself to the republican members of the house. In legislating for a great state like Nebraska politics should not be considered save as in carrying out platform pledges. This is seldom done by any of the parties, but that one commends itself most heartily that legislates for the taxpayer instead of the taxgatherer. The republican party is not so sadly and stupidly ignorant of the populists that it can afford to allow the corporation element to use the caucus club upon it.

Persons who have taken the trouble to figure up the vote say that the populists have given the populists legislative control also. The tlekkish position in which the party stands is well known to those western representatives who have so contumaciously fought for and redeemed from populist control a portion of the state that has been held by the populists for four years, and is largely to whip them into line that this caucus method is talked of. On matters in which the farmers are interested these members have been very loyal, and it is to be hoped that their colleagues are fearful that they will be seduced into worshipping strange gods.

The News trusts that there will be no attempt to open the caucus corral on any representative. Every man ought to be permitted to vote as he thinks best for his constituents and the people generally with-out being influenced by the party. There is nothing whatever to do with it. The trust that a legislator can use at the close of the session in determining whether he has served the public interest in measures and is applied by his own conscience and sense of right. The caucus destroys individuality of action, can be used to bind members to the support of iniquitous measures and is populist, not republican. Let us hear no more of it.

RELISHED BY THE BEST. Philadelphia Inquirer: Blyly—That man ahead of us is an inventor out of luck. Blyly—How do you know? Blyly—Why, his ends of his trousers' legs are fraying.

Boston Transcript: She—Do you remember when we used to make mud pies together? He—Yes; but mud pies are no longer an attraction. What we want now is the earth.

Chicago Record: Alderman Jobs—Mister Chairman! Mister Chairman! I rise to a point of order. The Chairman—State your point of order. Alderman Jobs—The alderman in the next row is sticking his ribs in 'n' interferes with my speech.

Lullapanian Journal: "I am the absconding cashier of the Hustup bank," said the sad-eyed man who was waiting for the police. "Very well," said the police sergeant, "have any one in this city who can identify you?"

Washington Star: "I see," said Mrs. Corn-tassel, "that people in Washington think that the gas is an expensive." "They're right," replied her husband. "They ain't no congressman in ten that earns \$5,000 a year."

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