

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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ALL ABOUT THE ROBBERY.

When you hear the newsboys cry out "All about the robbery!" you do not always take them at their word. The paper they offer you may contain a firing account of the midnight invasion of a heneep or a tame allusion to a holdup by some chattered mortgage shark in which neither you nor 90 out of 100 people have more than a passing concern.

A case of genuine highway robbery in which every citizen of Nebraska is interested was reported in the Sunday papers, but the newsboys for once neglected their opportunity. This robbery was not committed by masked burglars in the dark. It was no such plot as cost Peglegged Griffin his life when he was inveigled into demanding money from the state treasurer of Nebraska at the point of a revolver a few years ago. It was the successful execution of a clean-cut, cold-blooded conspiracy to loot the treasury by the consent and with the collusion of state officers. Thirty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as might be necessary to buy the tramping and interest in the alleged prison contract assigned by Mosher to Dorgan, was appropriated by the late legislature in the last hour of its session. This appropriation was considered outrageously excessive. All of Dorgan's belongings in the penitentiary were not considered worth \$15,000 at the very highest, and whatever the unexpired part of the contract might be worth, if Mosher and Dorgan had any contract rights, was more than offset by the failure of the contractors to live up to their obligations.

Every penny of the whole \$35,000 appropriated has been absorbed under the fraudulent appraisal. Dorgan has been awarded \$33,408.50 and the appraisers pocket the balance. The most chummy thing is the allowance of \$500 to each appraiser and the umpire for his arduous labor. It is considered very liberal to pay \$300 for a sixty-days' session to members of the legislature, but ten days' time going through a farcical inspection and computation is charged up to the taxpayers of Nebraska at \$500. Even the most reckless of the legislative jobbers never suspected that they were creating sinners worth \$50 a day.

This is not the worst feature of the highway robbery. On the face of it returns the state will still owe Mosher and Dorgan, one or the other, or both, \$20,000, if they see fit to trump up any boodle claim before some future legislature. A more scandalous piece of jobbery never was perpetrated and the men engaged in it will keep explaining it away for the remainder of their days.

CHINA'S GRATITUDE. President Cleveland has received from the emperor of China a letter thanking him for the kindly offices exercised by the United States in behalf of the restoration of peace between China and Japan. All that was done by this government was simply to indicate its willingness to act as a mediator between those nations, with a view to bringing about peace. It was a suggestion that proceeded from a friendly concern for both China and Japan, and while perhaps not strictly in line with our policy regarding the political affairs and conflicts of foreign nations, had an entirely proper motive. Besides, a war between those Oriental nations, upon the political development of one of which the example of this country had exerted great influence, presented a very different case from a war between European nations, with which under no circumstances our government would concern itself. There seemed to be altogether legitimate and proper reasons why the United States should act as mediator between China and Japan if those powers had desired its offices in this respect.

That the suggestion of the willingness of our government to do this was fully appreciated by the Chinese government the letter of the emperor amply attests, and what is of greater importance is the affect likely to be produced in creating among the Chinese people a stronger feeling of friendship toward this country. This is something to be desired and which it is in our interest to cultivate. With the new conditions of civilization and progress which are to come to the Chinese empire as a result of Japan's victory the United States ought to get a liberal share of the benefits that will accrue to the world. This country is in a position to command, if it shall exert the proper effort, a large and profitable part of the trade of these Oriental nations, and it is the part of good business policy to cultivate their friendship and good will, for however small a part these play in the affairs of commerce they are certainly helpful.

The course of our government in recent years has not been of a nature to strengthen friendly relations with China. Our legislation respecting the Chinese was such as to invite vigorous resentment, and if applied to any other people would have been resented. But the Chinese government has been tolerant and forbearing and now it has given evidence of its gratitude for our expression of friendly concern when it was in the midst of a losing war that may be accepted as an assurance that all previous acts of unfriendliness have been forgiven. In doing this the emperor of China has established a very strong claim to American respect.

WHITNEY OF NEW YORK.

Although Mr. William C. Whitney of New York affects to treat lightly the suggestion that he is a presidential possibility, there is reason to believe that his numerous friends in that state are preparing to start a boom for him when the opportune time arrives, and it is not likely that Mr. Whitney will make any effort to prevent them carrying out such a purpose. Senator Smith of New Jersey is credited with saying that he thinks Whitney is a candidate for the presidency, adding that he believes he would poll the entire democratic strength.

Unquestionably Mr. Whitney would make a highly respectable democratic candidate. He is a man of ability and character, and also of wealth. As secretary of the navy in the first Cleveland administration, he rendered the

country excellent service in vigorously pushing the policy inaugurated under the preceding administration of building up the navy, winning the commendation of men of all parties for his activity in this respect. Mr. Whitney has shown that he has astuteness as a politician, with considerable ability in organizing and handling men. If he were made the standard bearer of his party there would never be any trouble about an adequate campaign fund, because he not only has millions of his own to draw upon, but wealthy friends, who would generously contribute to his campaign.

But from the present aspect of the situation it does not appear probable that a man of Whitney's stripe will be nominated by the next democratic national convention. In the first place, locality is against him. It is pretty safe to say that no eastern man, and especially no New York, will have any chance in the next national convention of the democracy. The middle states or the west will furnish the candidate, unless, indeed, there should be a split in the convention, resulting in the nomination of two democratic candidates, in which possible event the east would probably get one. Then Mr. Whitney's business identification with corporations is not in his favor, while his somewhat aristocratic tendencies would not commend him to a large element of the democracy. Still, he is undoubtedly popular in New York and would probably come nearer to polling the party vote in that state than any other man.

Looking over the list of possible democratic candidates for the presidency, we do not see why William C. Whitney would not prove to be as available as any of them and much more so than a majority of them. It can make very little difference who the democracy nominate next year, as the defeat of the party is inevitable.

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST.

It is the nature of the mole to burrow under ground and it is the nature of the crawfish to move forward by going backward. It is the nature of the ground hog to fear his own shadow and it is the nature of the snake to crawl on its belly and to hiss. It is the nature of some men to go crooked even when they are put upon a straight path. These creatures are no more to blame for their serpentine ways than is the mole, the crawfish, the ground hog or the snake for their natural instincts and propensities. It is the nature of the beast and the laws of nature are the laws of God.

Newspapers are the creatures of the men who make them. They are either frank, fearless and straightforward or they are evasive, cowardly, and crooked. They are either bold, direct and honest or they are insincere, time-serving and dishonest. These traits mark the difference between the papers that enjoy public confidence and wield an influence for good and the papers that are discredited, discredited and without a respectable following.

Our amiable contemporary, the World-Herald, is by nature endowed with the instincts of the mole, the crawfish and the snake at one time. It is as blind as the mole and loves to grub under ground; its motions forward are always really backward, and its course is as slippery and devious as that of the water-snake. It is the nature of the beast, and it is not to blame. It loves to do its political work under ground and plays fast and loose with great principles as if they were marketable commodities. It pretends to be independent all the time, claims to be straight democratic in off years and turns its back on democracy in national campaigns. It professes to favor honest local government and plays into the hands of the boodler gang every time it has a chance. It is a friend of the foreigner with Junior Order proclivities, and sings the Catholic babies to sleep with an A. P. A. lullaby. It shrieks anti-monopoly in a high key and sings falsetto all the time playing into the very hands of the railroad autocrat.

The recent antics of this double-headed and double-dealing monstrosity are in perfect keeping with its career. The conditions that call for the purging of local governments of the tax-eaters and spoliars who have foisted themselves upon the city, county and school district by sectarian agitation and proscription are known to everybody in this community. The battle for local reform can not be fought out on a partisan line. The only time a non-partisan movement has any show of success is in an off year, when national and state issues are in the background. If the bogus independent and spurious democratic organ could be honest it would fall in line and lend whatever influence it may possess to the redemption of Omaha from star-chamber rule. But that is not the nature of the animal. It suddenly has a spasm of rantankerous straight democracy when the rank and file of real democrats, regardless of faction, favor a citizens' movement and will support such a movement no matter what the tadpole of Nebraska politics may do.

Eastern papers are quoting the opinions of the governors of Wyoming and Colorado as to the success of the woman suffrage experiment in those states. Of course both are favorable to the continued right of women to vote. The governors of those states are perhaps in a position to form a judgment on the question, but are they in a position to form an unbiased judgment? What governor of Wyoming or Colorado would dare to advocate and work for a return to the old suffrage laws so long as he harbored the slightest political ambition? The man to judge of the success or failure of woman suffrage in those states is the well informed outsider, who takes the pains to make a careful and painstaking investigation.

The declaration by General Bushnell, the republican candidate for governor of Ohio, that he favors Governor McKinley as the presidential candidate in 1896 disposes of the report of serious opposition among Ohio republicans to McKinley. The nomination of Bushnell was heralded as a Foraker victory, and upon this it was assumed that there was to be made a factional fight with a view to depriving McKinley of the solid support

of the Ohio delegation in the next republican national convention, the obviously absurd suggestion being made that Foraker should to the presidential nomination and was planning to damage the chances of McKinley. Another report had it that Bushnell was to be put forward, in case of his election as governor, as Ohio's candidate for president, an equally absurd suggestion. Doubtless there are republicans in Ohio who do not prefer McKinley, just as in Maine and in Iowa there are republicans who do not prefer Reed and Allison, but unquestionably they are an insignificant minority and will cut no figure in determining results. It is perfectly evident that the practically unanimous sentiment of the Ohio republicans is for McKinley as the candidate of the party for president next year, and there is no reason to apprehend that there will be any change in this sentiment between now and the time for choosing delegates to the next national convention.

When the Farmers Alliance was first organized in Nebraska as a secret political order The Bee condemned it as such on the ground that a party whose leaders operated behind closed doors in star-chamber sessions was unworthy the confidence and respect of the people. We have never changed or abridged our convictions upon this principle of right. Any party or any propaganda of political doctrine that cannot stand the light of day will never succeed before the American electorate. It may attain temporary strength and exert some influence upon the great political divisions, but it is doomed to wither and fade away. At any rate, the voters of Nebraska have attested the fact that they have little use for a party that fears the searchlight of publicity upon all its operations. They will not tolerate secret political slate making and the transformation of party conventions into ratification meetings at the beck and call of veiled leaders who dare not openly advocate a questionable cause.

Silver is the poor man's money, reports Senator Toller. So it is, but when a poor man toils for one silver dollar he demands and has a right to receive a dollar that will buy as many things, he eats and wears as any other dollar. The moment a free silver coinage act shall become effective every silver dollar will lose half its purchasing power and the poor man who now receives \$12 a week for his labor will under such a law receive but \$6 worth of groceries, clothing, etc. Mantine the silver mine owners of Colorado will gather in enormous profits by reason of an advanced price of silver bullion which a free coinage law would bring to them.

The Omaha railroad, which forms part of the Vanderbilt system, has just declared a semi-annual dividend of 3 1/2 per cent on its preferred stock. Inasmuch as the Omaha road, like all the other granger roads, is bonded for more than what it has cost to build and its stock represents about 90 per cent water, 3 1/2 per cent dividends every six months would seem to indicate that hostile legislation has not seriously impaired the ability of the managers to get all that the traffic will bear, for its preferred stockholders.

When Bill Stunt turned over to Mosher his penitentiary contract all his chattels in the pen, including the handsome uniforms on the backs of the convicts, were estimated to be worth less than \$2,000. When Dorgan turns over his rattletraps and zebra uniforms they are computed to be worth over \$25,000 by Broatch, Gale & Co. And this is a year of very low prices—except at the penitentiary.

Apologies Move Slowly.

Spain fires upon the American flag in haste and apologizes for it at her leisure.

Makes the Poor Poorer.

They call silver "the poor man's money." Well, maybe it is. It is the money of Mexico and India and China, and other progressive countries, where the common people are certainly about as poor as they can be.

The Return of Common Sense.

After having tried his luck with cheap money for seventeen years, the government of Chile has abandoned the effort to further kick against the pricks. It has resumed its place among the solvent commercial nations by adopting the gold measure of value.

A New Deal Called For.

The State Board of Equalization having cut down the railroad assessment of the state some \$2,500,000, Colfax county is one of the sufferers, and to the extent of \$40,831.94. The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley in 1894 was assessed \$101,529 in this county, this year it is \$78,960; the B. & M. is the same both years, \$18,216; the Union Pacific was \$190,125 in 1894 and is now \$172,945; the Pullman Palace Car company was \$1,588.56 in 1894 and in 1895 is \$1,242.82; the Western Union Telegraph company is the only one raised, being taken from \$3,251.59 to \$3,432.20. Thus the local taxpayers of Colfax county will have to pay more taxes to make up the difference lost paid by the corporations. Our republican state officers, who are a lot of corporation tools, are to blame. Of course they are hard times, but the corporations should not be allowed to escape at the extra burden of the people, who are already paying taxes out of their just proportion. If our poor people are to escape at this reduction and others to follow, but never can we regulate their charges by law, as has been attempted. Give us a new deal.

Altogether Too Mysterious.

One Fodrea, who is officially designated a state examiner, has recently examined the books of the Sarpy county treasurer, and in the advertising column of his paper has found the report that he has submitted to the county commissioner. Of course it is absurd for a little county newspaper to criticize the work of a state official, but well just try it once for luck, and will begin by the declaration that not three men in Sarpy county can solve Fodrea's array of figures. These strange examinations are made in order that the people may know the exact condition of the public funds, but if all the statements are so mysterious and full of figures, it is considered, then indeed would the people be wholly in the dark if they depended upon the reports of the state examiners for information regarding the public money. The county commissioners were expected to approve Fodrea's report, but after wrestling with it a day or two they found it too mysterious to merit official approval, so they just accepted it and ordered it published. Mr. Fodrea is a pleasant gentleman, and if he fails to make intelligible his official figures.

Government by Injunction.

Now that the injunction has become so common an instrument of use in cases in which prompt action is necessary, it is highly probable that more exact rules be provided for the guidance of judges. The power of issuing injunctions will be realized with greater boldness of reason if it is not exercised with the utmost care and good judgment. The injunction gives immense power to judges and brings sharply to view the fact that this is a government, in vital questions, of judges rather than of legislatures.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

ROYAL BAKING POWDER ABSOLUTELY PURE

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE

By a vote nearly unanimous, Kansas City decided to build an opera water works. The vacancy in the throne of Johare presents a tempting opening for statesmen out of a job.

By the grace of a New York court, William Franz August Humor Proschewitzky has saved off a few sections of his name, leaving the Humor intact.

Edward L. Pierce and William Endicott of Boston have presented and erected a monument to the memory of the late Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase.

The people of the mining states are not a unit for silver. A backslider was discovered in each of the states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming. The government mint and hypothecated \$30,000 worth of gold bullion. Although the bullion was recovered, the natives denounce his conduct as treason to the state.

Chicago crooks did not exactly unload gold or silver bricks on the veranda at the Illinois 16 1/2 convention. They did a more genteel job. They gathered in thrifteen of them and plucked them of watches, jewelry, clothing and nearly \$1,000 in cash. The outrage was concocted in Wall street, doubtless.

But Masterson, ex-terrier of the border, is regarded as one of the foremost laywers of the early days of Dodge City, Kan., and later in Creede, Colo., serving as marshal in both places. He was a man of great physical fear and can draw and pump a gun with rapidity of a lightning flash.

Vincent D. Markham, who has just died in Denver at the age of 70, was for many years regarded as one of the foremost laywers of Colorado. He was a native of Virginia, was graduated from William and Mary college in 1848, was admitted to the bar in 1854, and went to Kansas in 1858. He went to Denver in 1862 and at once became prominent as a citizen and a lawyer.

President Cleveland tested his toothpick shrewdly in the case of George Gougeon, but achieved distinction as a graveyard promoter in the early days of Dodge City, Kan., and later in Creede, Colo., serving as marshal in both places. He was a man of great physical fear and can draw and pump a gun with rapidity of a lightning flash.

One of the most thoughtful and generous of the present generation of Omaha men is that of Mrs. Sarah A. Smith of Philadelphia. She bequeaths an estate valued at \$90,000 for the maintenance of playgrounds for children in Fairmount park. The gift supplements that of her husband, who during life gave \$50,000 for that purpose. The gift is magnificent and will be a perpetual source of good to the children of the Quaker City.

A remarkable instance of mistaken identity has developed in New York City. Last August two young men, strangers in the city, were arrested for theft. The accused were positively identified then and his testimony secured their conviction and sentence to imprisonment for one year. Now the real thief has been identified and proof has been produced showing that the convicted man was in Philadelphia at the time of the robbery. Steps have been taken to secure their release. Under a new law false identification renders the state liable for damages, and a test will be made of it in the present case.

Abu Baka, the autocrat of Johare, is dead. For twenty-nine years he ruled the little Malaysian empire and introduced western civilization and railroads in the country. He was a true and just ruler, and frequently on dress parade decorated himself with 10,000,000 worth of diamonds. While exhorting through England a few years ago he concluded to ornament his harem with an English lass, but subsequently gave her a royal million. A \$50,000 breach of promise suit followed. Abu pleaded that as he was a reigning monarch he was beyond the jurisdiction of the English courts, and the court sustained him.

BUCK HENRIKSEN'S BLOWOUT.

Davenport Democrat: Hisses for Cleveland. Cheers for Alcock. That shows the sentiment of the Illinois silverites who have the audacity to call themselves democrats. Chicago Times-Herald: With a lightness of heart unattained in political history, the free silver fanatic in Illinois impaled the constitution of the United States on the point of a free silver pen and threw the constitution out of the window of the house of representatives at Springfield, within hearing distance of the tomb of Abraham Lincoln.

Minneapolis Tribune: The idea of the free silver movement in Illinois and Iowa is evidently to organize a new party and fuse with the populists and the free silver republicans. But if they would do the manly thing they would organize a party of their own, and not the 16 to 1 fad, and are entitled to take the lead in the silver propaganda.

Contrasts Provokes Weeps.

Brooklyn Eagle: The sweet girl graduates in her white muslin and pink ribbons is due. She is sure to tell us how to run the universe, and remind us that, although we have been awfully wicked, we still have a chance to make our lives sublime. Yet, who would dispense with the sweet thing? It is true that she knows a good many things that are not so, but who she grows older will be less ambitious to sway the destinies of mankind, provided she is not carried away with the craze for bloomers.

Vehicles of Grace.

St. Louis Post: The late Judge J. C. Fort Smith, Ark., was composed of wise men. One of the recommendations in its report was that prizes be supplied with newspapers in order that their time may be more profitably employed than in playing gambling games.

FREE SILVER SAMPLES.

"Nine-tenths of the people who favor unlimited coinage of silver by the United States would change their opinions very suddenly," said an Omaha man, prominent in the professions, "if their theories were put into practical operation. One experience is sufficient for me. My parents were well-to-do in the old country. My father placed the bulk of his fortune in farm mortgages in Austria. Although the loans were made in gold, the law of the empire forbade the gold contract current in this country now. The borrower could repay in silver, which was then legal tender for any amount. Father and mother died when I was quite young, leaving the children in charge of guardians. The family income was sufficient for our support and education, and no change was made in the investment until a day and a sister decided to come to the United States. They sold their share of the estate was converted into cash, and every mortgage took precious care to pay us in silver. We went to the banks to exchange silver for gold, but found to our sorrow the banks had no gold. So stringent was the law that the banks did not dare pay out gold in the presence of witnesses, but the law of the empire forbade the gold contract current in this country now. The borrower could repay in silver, which was then legal tender for any amount. Father and mother died when I was quite young, leaving the children in charge of guardians. The family income was sufficient for our support and education, and no change was made in the investment until a day and a sister decided to come to the United States. They sold their share of the estate was converted into cash, and every mortgage took precious care to pay us in silver. We went to the banks to exchange silver for gold, but found to our sorrow the banks had no gold. 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