

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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THE DUTY OF CONGRESS.

Under the constitution the sword and the purse have been entrusted by the nation to congress, and that body is expected to discharge its trust as it may in its wisdom deem most conducive to the public welfare.

The first duty of congress is to provide the necessary revenues to carry on the government, and so long as congress does not shrink that duty there can be no excuse for the president to exercise the power of raising revenues indirectly by borrowing under pretext of maintaining the gold reserve.

The resolution introduced in the United States senate by Senator Sherman, the salient point of which is that the \$100,000,000 of gold coin or bullion shall be paid out only in the redemption of United States notes and treasury notes.

It is to be hoped that in the commercial directory of 1896 there will be no such word as fall.

Perhaps if the city veterinarian and meat inspector were the same person horse steaks would become as profitable as dog tails.

Beatrice courts convict defaulting city officials and sentence them to the penitentiary. Omaha defaulters walk the streets undisturbed by the authorities charged with prosecuting them.

Grover Cleveland may have made a New Year's resolution not to accept a third term in the white house if it is presented to him, but if so he has kept his resolve confidentially to himself.

The fact must not be overlooked that the county treasurer-elect was able to furnish individual surety on a \$500,000 bond. The city treasurer-elect was not so fortunate. Both men are well known.

Attorney General Churchill began business as a rail splitter. This was a good beginning and no doubt he was a good axeman. Some people are cruel enough to suggest that he made a great mistake when he left that honest occupation.

Borrowing money is not the best way to start the new year, either for the individual citizen or for the national government. Going into debt should be a resource used only when income cannot be made to meet necessary expenditure.

The United States has started the new year at peace with all nations on earth. This is saying a great deal in the light of recent events affecting our international relations. It is to be hoped as much can be said of every day of the new year.

Watch meetings were in order December 31, which may account for the meeting of heavy taxpayers in the First National bank. They will continue the watch meetings until the city and county governments adopt a policy of retrenchment and reform.

The abolition of the fire alarm bell should be among the first reforms inaugurated in the year 1896. There never was any need of continuing to ring fire alarm bells after the volunteer fire department was supplanted with a paid fire department. Other cities have discontinued these alarms and Omaha should have joined the procession long ago.

Chicago newspapers are inveighing against the fads which have attached themselves to the public school system there. It is asserted that pupils are surfeited with fancy frills under the name of public instruction and leave the schools unable to spell or read or cipher properly. Such comment is applicable to the Omaha schools, as The Bee has often pointed out.

Everything The Bee predicted as to the conduct of Broad and Vandervoort as police commissioners is being verified as time goes on. The department has under them deteriorated into a political machine, the sole object being the promotion of Broad's insane ambition for office. He must, however, cover several big streams before he can reach a gubernatorial nomination.

The number of marriages in Omaha during 1895 was 969, while 1,079 couples were mated in 1894. Figures given for every month in the year prove conclusively that the fall season is chosen by a greater number of benedictors for forging the link that forever binds. We are told that "in the spring the young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." This may be true, but in Omaha the greater number of contracts are sealed in the fall.

Senator Nelson of Minnesota has already made a set speech in the senate and that before his first month in his first session of congress was completed. Had this occurred a few years ago the whole country would have stood aghast at the new senator's temerity in disregarding the time-worn rules for preserving senatorial dignity. It was the late Senator Van Wyck who first tried to abide by the unwritten code that delegates new members of the senate to at least a year of unheard obscurity. He was severely criticised for his rashness, but now the same performance by Senator Nelson will scarcely elicit comment.

THE CITY TREASURY.

At the very threshold of the new year Omaha is confronted with a serious financial problem. The condition of the city treasury will demand at the hands of the authorities immediate attention and serious consideration.

The deficiencies in the municipal revenues have become a matter of grave concern. Unpaid and interest-bearing warrants are outstanding drawn against a half dozen different funds, and within the next ninety days there will be hardly a fund that will not show a balance on the wrong side of the ledger.

When Governor Holcomb refused to call the state appointing board together to select the Omaha police commissioners last August, on the ground that he questioned its constitutionality, he was assailed with epistolary abuse from the other two members of the board.

Watch the democrats who were so loud in denouncing the republican national committee for giving consideration to financial propositions in connection with the location of the national convention.

CAN LYING BE SUPPRESSED?

There is a widespread sentiment among all civilized people against summary capital punishment by mobs of persons charged with crime. Lynch law administered by vigilance committees may have served a salutary purpose in mining camps and frontier settlements in the absence of regularly organized courts.

But it is passing strange that it should be deemed necessary or expedient for men and women in high station in Great Britain to organize an anti-lynching committee with a view to obtaining reliable information on the subject of mob outrages in America and to give expression of public opinion in condemnation of such outrages.

THE BICYCLE TAX.

Councilman Kment's plan to raise revenue by a license tax on bicycles has been rejected by the council. Why it was rejected passes comprehension. The city has as much right to license bicycles as it has express wagons. Many bicycles are to be had for hire, just as are hacks and carriages. Few if any of them are listed for taxation.

While the Right Honorable Duke of Argyll and his associates may take credit to themselves for the universal expressed desire to suppress lynching, it is doubtful whether anything that has been said on this subject by the press of Europe, Asia or Africa has had the remotest effect in repressing the outbreaks of popular frenzy that culminate in lynching.

It will be made out presently by Anglo-maniacs that the greatest crime in history was the separation of the British original American colonies from Great Britain and the establishment of the great republic of the continent. This was the talk of the day for over 100 years ago. It is amazing to find it the talk of sons of the revolution.

THE ELASTIC INTERNATIONAL CODE.

History repeats itself. In an Asiatic war, Portugal captured the tooth of a sacred monkey from Siam, and refused to return it until a ransom of \$3,500,000 was paid. Some of the greatest crimes in history are committed in the name of international law.

SPILLIN' FOR A FIGHT.

One trouble following a manifestation of the United States' determination to maintain the Monroe doctrine is the bellicose effect on the republics of South America. Ever since the message of the president little Venezuela has been prouder around like a banian rooter "spillin' for a fight."

THE IRRIGATION FAIR.

There is a big irrigation fair held at North Platte, Neb., some time this year, and the promoters are making preparations for a grand event. They are interesting business men and farmers all over the western part of the state, and it is thought that Colonel Cody will take a hand and add to the attractions.

SENATOR ALLEN'S WAR RECORD.

Mr. Allen—Mr. President, I believe that I am the only senator on this side of the chamber who served as a private soldier in the army during the war of 1861-65. I carried a musket during the entire time. My experience was with the grandest soldier the world has ever seen, in my judgment—the late General H. H. Hays. I have no prejudice coming to me from youth or from early association, these prejudices would be against the passage of the bill, but I have none.

THE TRANSMISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION.

Omaha has already taken steps to organize the Transmississippi and International exposition of 1898. When it assumes a proper shape, and the time comes for Colorado to act, a unanimous and generous support should be given to the enterprise on the part of every citizen of Colorado.

INDIANAPOLIS ASPIRANTS.

Indianapolis News: McKinley has engaged forty-five rooms in St. Louis, the indication being that he has selected a lead for the nomination by about fifteen rooms.

THE BALTIMORE HORROR.

Detroit Free Press: Panic is a contagion, but a few men with cool heads and plenty of nerve could have prevented that horror in Baltimore which has so shocked the world.

THE MONROE FLURRY.

Chicago Chronicle: While England is notified that it will not be permitted to capture territory down in Venezuela to which it has no rightful claim, the same remark is applied to the United States.

GREENING THE SKIDS.

When the republicans see that a thing needs to be done for the good of the country, and they have the power to do it, there is no time wasted in prolix discussion or parliamentary foolishness.

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THE YEAR'S RECORD.

It will be of interest to glance briefly at what the year 1895 has brought to this world in the way of misadventures, especially as compared with its predecessor, 1894.

The area of Venezuela is 632,000 square miles, larger than that of any country in Europe except Russia, and larger than that of any state in the United States.

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