

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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Utah is the infant prodigy in the sisterhood of states. Dr. Jameson once lived in Montana...

Strange, but the advent of leap year has not made the office seekers, male or female, more shy or less persistent.

And there are some few people who still insist that Comptroller Olsen has been a model auditor of public accounts.

The Ohio legislature is to have a speaker by the name of Sleeper. Unless he believes his name the new speaker may be put down as a failure from the start.

The popular loan idea is receiving universal approbation. The most practical form of the popular loan is that secured by the establishment of postal savings banks.

There is no denying the fact that so long as John Sherman remains in the senate his speeches on financial questions will be listened to as the views of the foremost financier in that body.

Fifty-two railroads were sent to foreclosure in the year 1895. That is a great number. But it ought to have been increased by the addition of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific at least.

Three Yale men on the Venezuelan boundary commission. President Cleveland is going to give Yale a chance to get even for the defeat of the athletic team which it sent to England a year ago.

Some of our newspaper friends ought either to get together or to consult a standard geographer as to the spelling of the South African names that are being wrangled about just now in so great profusion.

The Venezuelan commissioners signaled their first meeting by adjourning to call at the white house to pay their respects to the president. They will later pay their respects to Great Britain without taking the trouble to adjourn first.

City officers-elect steal a march on the county officers-elect in getting into office because the statutes fix the beginning of the terms on different days. The county officers, however, will make up the delay by staying in office longer.

The appointment of a council committee to induce new officials into office might possibly be excusable if it were accompanied by the appointment of a council committee to conduct taxgatherers and incompetents permanently out of office.

The council finance committee is in possession of information which may prove of some value in the trial of ex-Deputy Treasurer Coulter. It is one thing to find a shortage of \$100,000, and quite another to find what was done with the money. Mr. Coulter says he doesn't know anything about it.

Comptroller Olsen reminds us of the man who dropped his watch overboard from a ship in midocean and asserted that nothing was lost so long as a person knows where it is. The comptroller assures us that he knew last June about that missing \$77,000 and had refused to check it because he knew the money was missing. As an efficient comptroller Mr. Olsen is entitled to the champion belt.

The republican senators have reorganized the senate so far as committee majorities and committee chairmanships are concerned, but they have not yet made a redistribution of the senate employees. The democratic minority will willingly let the republicans have the responsibility for the form of legislative measures reported from the committees if it can be assured its hold upon the employes pay roll of the senate in addition to a veto on bills that come up for final passage.

Present members of the police commission were appointed with the express understanding that The Bee must be turned down under any and all circumstances. From the moment of their illegal confirmation by the council the contest over the publication of license applications was prejudged and foreordained. It was the design and the fixed determination to adjudge the World-Herald entitled to the publications without regard to law or showing of actual circulation. Every local politician will tell you so.

WHY OMAHA HAS THE PREFERENCE.

Omaha is trying to steal our Twin City Northwestern exposition idea for 1898, and she'll do it, too, if she can manage to wait for St. Paul much longer—Minneapolis Journal.

Omaha is doing nothing of the kind. The idea of a Western States exposition was not borrowed by Omaha from Minneapolis or St. Paul. An interstate exposition with Omaha as the focal point had been advocated for years by The Bee and the project was sidetracked only because of the World's fair at Chicago.

As between Omaha and the Twin cities the advantage of central location is decidedly with Omaha. A circle drawn around St. Paul and Minneapolis with a radius of 300 miles takes in a large slice of the British possessions, but fails to include the most prolific and important states west of the Mississippi. A circle with a radius of 500 miles drawn around Omaha would take in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Omaha is accessible to the whole region west of the Rockies, while St. Paul and Minneapolis have no direct connection with the greater half of it.

While the Twin cities boast a larger population than Omaha, the territory surrounding Omaha, and with which Omaha is connected by half a dozen great railway systems, possesses resources which the country tributary to St. Paul and Minneapolis cannot possibly match. As a matter of fact every state that would participate in an exposition at Minneapolis or Paulopolis, whichever you prefer to call it, would be represented in a Transmississippi exposition at Omaha. On the other hand, six or eight of the transmississippi states would be as likely to exhibit at Montreal or Toronto as they would at the capitals of Minnesota.

Why was the Cotton States exposition located at Atlanta and not at Mobile or Galveston or Jacksonville? Simply because Atlanta was most central and therefore most accessible and most available for the promotion of the object in view. That object was primarily to attract labor and capital to the new south and to stimulate industrial enterprise by exhibiting the natural products and the manufactured articles that have been or can be made from them. The prime object of the promoters of the Transmississippi exposition must be the development of the western country by the advertisement of its vast and unrivalled resources. In this direction Omaha commands the situation. It is accessible from every point of the compass. It is in the very heart of the transmississippi region and for that reason has received the unanimous endorsement of the states and territories represented in the Transmississippi congress.

WILL DEFEAT THE BOND BILL.

There is no doubt that the bond bill which passed the house before New Year's will never pass the senate. The free silver men have a majority of the finance committee and it seems certain that no bill will be reported from that committee unless it provides for free coinage at 16 to 1. Such a measure could not pass either branch of congress. It is also safe to predict that no bill providing for an issue of bonds at a low rate of interest than is provided under existing law, or allowing the secretary of the treasury to issue certificates of indebtedness when there are deficiencies in revenue, will pass this congress.

This, however, was foreseen and ought to cause no surprise, but none the less it may have ill effects of a serious nature. The reopening of the free silver coinage question can hardly fail to intensify financial distrust and thus retard the return of industrial activity and business prosperity. It is notice to foreign capitalists who hold American securities that there is still a free silver element here strong enough to defeat any financial legislation that may be proposed. It is not sufficient to restore confidence in our securities to say that this element is powerless to put its policy into effect. That is well understood. But being able and determined to prevent necessary and urgent legislation for the protection of the treasury and the maintenance of the public credit, the free silver men are still capable of doing great mischief and this fact is quite enough to keep up distrust, if not to increase it. We cannot, therefore, expect that foreign capitalists will take our securities or that they will not continue to be returned to us, augmenting the demand upon our gold resources.

The free silver men, however, are indissolubly joined to their idol and the country must take the consequences. It is an unfortunate situation from which worse results may come than it now foresees.

BRITISH AGGRESSION.

There is no reasonable doubt that the spirit of British aggression is in large measure responsible for the trouble in the Transvaal and that the European powers having interests in South Africa are justified in taking this view. That the hostile movement of Jameson against the Boers had for its chief motive the transformation of the now independent South African republic into a British possession there is excellent reason to believe, although it may not have been directly inspired from London. The leader in this movement has been a daring and skillful agent for the extension of British power and possessions in South Africa. He was the real leader in the war against the Matabele chief Lobengula which resulted in bringing all the territory of that savage monarch under subjection to the British and since then he has been awaiting another opportunity to advance British aggrandizement in that region. It is true that he had a sort of excuse for his raid in the demand of the English-speaking whites resident in that country for a fair share in its government and equal political rights, but this did not justify an attempt to overthrow the government of the republic and it is entirely reasonable to assume that no such attempt would have been made merely for the purpose of securing these rights. As has been suggested, Jameson's ex-

traordinary conduct in destroying the telegraph lines behind him clearly showed that he meant to be insured against the receipt of such orders from his superiors, either in Cape Colony or in Great Britain, as should interfere with his raid until it was too late to save the Boer government from the crushing blow he expected to inflict, leaving accomplished which, he probably reasoned, the British government could not be induced to deal severely with the man who had virtually insured the speedy annexation of the Transvaal, with all its mineral wealth, to the British empire.

But whether or not this be the correct view, the operation of Jameson has served to arouse the European powers, with Germany in the lead, to a keener sense of British aggression in the direction of territorial aggrandizement and the latest European dispatches indicate that there is a strong tendency among the continental powers to unite in resisting the British policy, at least so far as South Africa is concerned. It is not to be apprehended, perhaps, that the Transvaal incident will lead to any serious rupture between Great Britain and the powers that have African interests, but it is more than likely to result in such an understanding among those powers as will effectively curb the aggressive tendency of the British to extend their territorial possessions. It appears that at last England realizes her position of friendlessness and isolation, but whether this will have the effect to improve her conduct and policy it is impossible to say. The American people will have no sympathy with her in whatever issue the other European powers may make and they will see in her position reasonable assurance that she cannot command the support of other European powers in the issue she has with the United States. The demand for wise statesmanship has hardly ever been greater in British history than it is at present.

MORTON'S CANDIDACY.

Governor Morton of New York is an avowed candidate for the presidential nomination and it appears that the support of the entire republican party of that state, Mr. Morton had the question of making a race for the nomination under consideration for some time and it was only a few days ago that he decided to have himself announced as a candidate. According to the New York Mail and Express all the republican leaders of the state are heartily in favor of Governor Morton and if that be so he will have no difficulty in securing the Empire state delegation to the convention at St. Louis. The supporters of Mr. Morton refuse to give any weight to the objection to his candidacy on the score of age, he being now nearly 72. They say he is still a vigorous man, who is justified in looking forward to many years of usefulness, and that men much his senior have held power in various European governments, for example, Bismarck and Gladstone.

There is favorable comment outside of New York on Governor Morton's candidacy and unquestionably he is a man who merits the confidence of republicans everywhere, yet it is very doubtful that he will secure the presidential nomination, however ardently and earnestly his New York supporters may labor for him.

THE TRANSVAAL INVASION.

Minneapolis Journal: Filibuster Jameson found the Dutch Boers of the Transvaal republic in a fighting mood. Dutchmen, when aroused, can fight with the best of 'em, and so Jameson's expedition has come to grief. The Boers are more generally respected in this state who have induced Governor Morton to declare himself a candidate for the presidency. Every man who has looked at the question knows that Mr. Morton is ten years too old to be seriously considered for the office. He was born on May 16, 1824, and was elected, he would have attained almost 72 years of age on the day of the inauguration. No man has quite attained the age of 70 in that laborious and anxious career. The oldest man ever elected to the office was W. H. Harrison, who was 68 when he was inaugurated and died just a month later.

Minneapolis Journal: The sympathy of the world will be with the Boers, who have defeated the British in the Transvaal invasion. The contempt of the world will be with all parties, open and covert, who aided or abetted the invasion; and very few people similar with the Boers in England will fall to recognize in the whole transaction the hand of England, to be thrust forward in the name of civilization, and withdrawn if the proposed view happens to be too fierce and strong.

Chicago Times-Herald: The issue to which all the nations of the earth are gradually being drawn is the Transvaal question. To forcibly prevent the extension of British dominion has just been precipitated by the rash act of Jameson, a high-handed adventurer, who has just ended his career in the heyday of piracy than in our own time. It is inconceivable that the secretary for the colonies should not have been able to detect the plot, and that the British government will so blindly to the ultimate results of Dr. Jameson's act, which is based upon a much less moral consideration than the Transvaal question. The Transvaal question which is in the nature of a constitutional agitation for a redress of grievances.

Louisville Courier-Journal: England seems to be again a hot bed of tricks of territory. The Transvaal invasion is a new chapter in the march of an armed force into the Transvaal republic has been disavowed, but if the Boers should be overthrown all the world would be against the British. The Boer war was successful in his operations against King Lobengula, and though he is now pitting himself against a brave and warlike people, he is not to be despised. The Boer war seems to be an adventure with the genius of a Clive or a Rhodes; and the Transvaal is a field that is irresistibly attractive to the Boer. The Boer who shall shall shall his courage can repeat his previous exploits, and then England will have a new colony. It matters not that it may be well governed afterward. We all know what the British government will do if they are not to be kept in check by the Boers. It is the lust of wealth and the greed of power.

St. Paul Pioneer-Press: And now the daily parallel is being drawn for the benefit of the Boers. The Boers are being compared to a note to England—desiring an explanation of her action in the Transvaal. Germany has no objection, for she has possessions in the Transvaal. The Boers are interested in what other nations intend to do there. It will now be in order for English investors to dump German securities upon the market—if they have any—and for Englishmen in general to talk of the ingratitude of blood connections, as Queen Victoria is the august grandmother of Emperor Billy, but they will not let their own people strike the average Briton that Germany is pursuing a course almost exactly similar to that followed by the United States in the case of the Boers. The Boers are being compared to a note to England—desiring an explanation of her action in the Transvaal. Germany has no objection, for she has possessions in the Transvaal. 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