

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

B. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily (without Sunday) One Year, \$3.00...

OFFICES: Omaha, The Bee Building, South Omaha, 15th St. and 16th St. Cor. 15th and 16th Sts.

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UNPARALLELED BRUTALITY.

Twenty-five men, women and children killed outright and three score maimed or mangled!

This, in a word, is the result of the most terrible railway disaster that has ever taken place within 200 miles of Omaha.

More than 150,000 people thrown into an inexpressible apprehension over the horror of the possible loss of dear relatives or friends! The whole city in a state of suspense and anxiety for hours and hours!

And yet the managers of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, on which this frightful calamity occurred, deliberately and persistently closed all avenues by rail and telegraph to both press and public by which any information from the field of carnage and wreckage might be obtained!

This is not all. In their zeal to suppress all reports of the true situation these officials repeatedly denied that any serious accident had occurred and even went so far as to contradict the reports from this city to the Associated Press announcing a fatal railroad wreck on their line.

Such an exhibition of brutality toward a community which was so deeply and immediately concerned is without a parallel in railroad annals. No explanation or excuse can palliate the outrage.

The time is past when railroad managers can with impunity suppress news of the wholesale slaughter of passengers under any pretext whatsoever. They might exclude reporters and telegraph operators from the relief trains. But what right has any officer of a railroad company to deny the use of the telegraph for the transmission of private and press dispatches?

The rule established fifty years ago prohibiting employees of railroads from divulging information concerning railway accidents when applied at the close of the nineteenth century is a monstrosity that the American people will not tolerate.

It savors altogether too much of despotism. Even in Russia no such barbarism would be submitted to. When the awful accident happened recently near Moscow at the peasants' feast in celebration of the czar's coronation full particulars were cabled to the press of the entire world within a few hours.

President Hughtis is too humane a man to countenance, much less approve, such treatment of the public. He owes it to himself as well as to the people of Omaha and Council Bluffs to locate the responsibility for this outrage and to afford such redress as is within his power.

Next to the railway union depot the most urgent need of Omaha is a great auditorium hall accessible to all parts of the city and commodious enough to hold at least from 8,000 to 10,000 people.

Such a hall was in contemplation as a component part of the Jefferson square market house project. Whether that project shall ever materialize depends upon the decision of the supreme court, which will doubtless be rendered before the next legislature meets.

Mr. Bryan uses some very high sounding words in telling about "the uprising of the people," which save the silverites the credit of the Chicago convention.

On the other hand, if the court shall hold the square to be public property that may be converted to public use by and with the consent of the voters of Omaha the original project would in our judgment still be the most feasible as well as the most desirable.

A market house on Jefferson square, with the main front on Fifteenth street and side entrances on Cass and Chicago, would be of more easy access by street railway and vehicle than any other locality yet named, and the auditorium, accessible from Sixteenth street, with side entrances on Cass and Chicago, would be equally within easy reach of the multitude.

The original design provided for two public halls—a lower hall in the rear of the market house with seating capacity for 3,000 that could be utilized as an armory as well as a public hall, and the auditorium proper, covering the second story of the whole structure, having a seating capacity as large as the Mormon tabernacle in Salt Lake—between 8,000 and 10,000.

Such an auditorium, constructed with fireproof material and designed with a view to perfect acoustics, would make Omaha the greatest convention, fair and festival city west of Chicago. During the exposition the auditorium would be one of the great inducements for locating national gatherings, not merely in 1898, but for years to come. The necessity of having an auditorium in the heart of the city has been manifest ever since the completion of the Coliseum building.

That structure would have paid for itself twice a year if it had been accessible to the mass of citizens. As it is it can only be utilized occasionally, with a risk of failure to draw a full house even with the greatest of attractions.

For ten years past the files of The Bee will show a persistent opposition to the granting of municipal franchises by the city for the mere asking.

Repeatedly has the fact been shown that in several of the larger cities of the east and south and of Canada the division of revenues franchised corporations are required under their charters to make with the city government from which they derived most valuable privileges has in large part paid the cost of city government. Omaha has reached that period in its history when every franchise granted shall be made to produce a handsome revenue.

In 1893, when the storm of business depression swept over Nebraska to join hands with the blight of drought, eastern jobbing houses withdrew their salesmen from this state and declined to sell goods to our people. As a natural consequence jobbers of this state secured the trade thus abandoned and have held it ever since.

The eastern houses are bidding for the trade. They are not getting it to any great extent. Nebraska merchants have learned whom their best friends are. Being unable to regain a foothold here, the eastern jobber permits his salesmen to spread defamatory statements concerning this state throughout the northwest. Our jobbers are in possession of positive information on this point and steps are being taken to refute the slanders throughout that territory to this city.

Nearly the middle of July and still the volume of rainfall is quite adequate in all quarters of the state. There is no room for fear of drought, but every indication of plenty of rain throughout the season. Last year this time the crops were burning up. Today prospects of an enormous yield could not be better.

With two such magnets and populist charmers as Jack MacColl and M. P. Kinkaid on the republican ticket from the sixth district, and A. E. Cady on the republican ticket from the eighth district, the republican press of the state is in a state of jubilation.

They are tickled to death to see the republican ticket strengthened and vote getters, every one of them.

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As a matter of fact the depression of business in this country, resulting from the change in the tariff policy, has had no little to do with this increase of exports by forcing American manufacturers to seek foreign markets, even though there was no profit in doing so. As a leading commercial journal says, the increase absolutely and relatively of the exports of manufactured goods from this country for the past year, as compared with the year before, is due in some degree to the willingness of manufacturers to sell at a loss abroad, rather than not sell at all, or break the prices of the home market. Even when prices had been forced down to the lowest possible point manufacturers were still unable to dispose of their entire product and consequently, in many branches of trade, American products have been sold abroad on terms which yielded no profit whatever to the manufacturers. This unusually large shipment were disposed of, but it must not be assumed that it means a permanent increase in the foreign demand for these manufactures. It rather denotes the unsatisfactory condition of the home market.

It cannot be demonstrated that the present tariff law has contributed in the smallest degree to increase the exports of manufactured goods, while the most ardent supporter of that law must admit that it has curtailed the home market for the products of our industries, thus compelling American manufacturers to seek markets abroad for their goods, even at a loss.

Sound money democrats may remember the democratic national convention held at Omaha two years ago. It was a political funeral. Horace Greely was nominated. In the election he did not carry a single electoral state. But two years later the glorious old party was successful in every section of the country. The present outlook is certainly not worse than that of 1872. Brighter days will soon follow.

"I will not attempt to justify a bounty on anything," vehemently exclaimed Mr. Bryan in a speech in the house of representatives in support of the Wilson tariff bill, and answering as to best sugar bounty in Nebraska. But now Mr. Bryan is a member of the president's cabinet and is commended to the attention of every voter who is interested in the paramount issue before the country.

The distinguished leader and candidate of the republican party sent out in this address a ringing appeal to his countrymen to preserve the honor and credit of the government. He declared that a responsibility greater than the civil war had been imposed upon the patriotic people of the country by recent events, and said: "In this contest patriotism is above party and national honor is dearer than any party name. The currency and the credit of the government are good now and must be kept good forever." He pointed out that it is the threat to debase the currency which produces distrust and causes money to be withheld from circulation and investment. Every intelligent man of practical affairs knows that this is true. The assertion that there is not enough money with which to do the business of the country is utterly groundless. There has been recent evidence of the most conclusive nature that there are hundreds of millions of idle capital in the country which only needs confidence to be employed, as Major McKinley said, in gainful pursuits that will put every idle man at work. With that done we should have a nation of consumers constituting the best market for the products of our soil.

The American people cannot fail to be impressed by these clear and strong utterances of Major McKinley against the policy of repudiation proclaimed at Chicago, as well as by his presentation of the fact that having destroyed business and confidence by a free trade policy "it is now proposed to make things still worse by entering upon an era of depreciated currency." "Not content," said the republican candidate, "with the inauguration of the ruinous policy which has brought down the wages of the laborer and the price of farm products, its advocates now offer a new policy which will diminish the value of the money in which wages and products are paid." While this appeals to every intelligent, honest and patriotic citizen, it should have especial weight with the great wage-earning and producing classes, to whom honest money is of the very first importance. The welfare of the workingman and the farmer depends upon his being able to exchange his labor and his products for the very best money in the world. If these classes be compelled to accept, in place of the money which is steadily depreciating in value, as would inevitably be the case with free silver coinage as proposed by Bryan, Algeid and the party they represent, there is no possible way in which the wage earner and farmer can avoid loss.

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