

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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THE merchant who advertises catches the holiday trade. Omaha wants the Indian supply depot as well as the union passenger depot.

Omaha is always a part of Nebraska when it comes to getting signatures on the state treasurer's bond.

It may be better to fight than to be president, but to both should be the acme of American citizenship.

There are several places where the city treasury shortage may be invested to better advantage than in a new city jail.

It should be borne in mind that those who write Xmas proverbs have no reference to that X of gold which was spoken of during the recent campaign.

Before election, it was the candidate who recognized all his friends; since, it is the army of friends who tumble over each other to recognize the successful candidate.

No cessation of activity should be permitted in the work of the Transmississippi Exposition during the holidays. This is the one enterprise which should take precedence over all others.

Instead of brooding over your own fancied misfortunes, give a thought now and then to the actual misery of others and try to do a little toward making the holiday week a happy one for all.

Governor Holcomb will, it is said, fuse his inaugural address and biennial message into one literary production. He has gotten so accustomed to the fusion process that he cannot get out of the habit.

The spectacle of Spain, which for centuries has been a monument of ignorance, superstition and degradation among nations, posing as a divine instrument for the humbling of the upstart Yankee race, is one of the most laughable exhibitions of the day.

Spain may have recognized the confederacy before the battle of Bull Run, but that does not alter the position of the United States in the pending Cuban crisis. What Spain did thirty-five years ago is ancient history. What the United States will do now is of momentous present importance.

Nebraska supports "homes" rather for dependents of various varieties, but it has not yet established a home for displaced officeholders. A "home" of this kind, including populist, democratic and republican wards, with free board and lodgings, would be able to do a hard office business year in and year out.

The Spanish army is said to be already studying the geography of the United States, in preparation for an invasion of this country. It is not seriously feared, however, that a hostile force landing on the Atlantic coast will ever penetrate so far inland as to make it necessary to call out the Nebraska Home Guards.

It is stated on what is considered excellent authority that the special session of the Iowa legislature will not be marked by the passage of a manufacturing bill to relax the prohibitory law in favor of breweries and distilleries. It certainly seems inconsistent to refuse this privilege after the sale of intoxicating liquors in Iowa has been legalized. So far as Nebraska is concerned it will enter no objections to the maintenance of the present order in its sister state and it will continue, as heretofore, to supply all Iowa customers with the best products of Nebraska distilleries and breweries.

Local authorities do not seem to be awake to the seriousness for the taxpayers of Omaha and Douglas county of the ruling of the attorney general that the law permitting guaranty company bonds to be given in lieu of personal bonds by public officials is unconstitutional and void. If the opinion of the attorney general is sound, then the people are practically without security for the safekeeping of a large part of their public funds because it is safe to assume that no guaranty company would pay any loss with such an inviting loophole open for escape. Something certainly ought to be done to protect the rights of city and county and to secure at the earliest possible date a conclusive decision on the legality of the law.

THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY.

The resolution introduced in the senate by Senator Bacon of Georgia, declaring "that the recognition of governments is a sovereign power which does not appertain to the executive, except as the right of veto makes him a part of the law-making power," will produce discussion of the question as to the exclusive power of the president to recognize the so-called republic of Cuba. We believe the authority of the executive in this respect has never before been questioned and there is high authority for the position taken by Secretary Olney, undoubtedly with the full concurrence, if not at the direction, of President Cleveland.

Throughout our history the exclusive prerogative now asserted by the executive has been recognized whenever the question of recognizing the independence of a state has been presented. It was acknowledged in connection with the recognition of the revolted colonies of Spain in North and South America and later in regard to the recognition of Texas. Respecting the latter a report made from the senate committee on foreign relations by Mr. Clay said that "the senate alone, without the co-operation of some other branch of the government, is not competent to recognize the existence of any power. The president of the United States, by the constitution, has the charge of their foreign intercourse. Regularly he ought to take the initiative in the acknowledgment of the independence of any new power." Secretary Seward said that "the question of recognition of foreign revolutionary or reactionary governments is one exclusively for the executive and cannot be determined internationally by congressional action." Judge Thomas M. Cooley, the distinguished constitutional lawyer, says in effect the same thing, though he observes that the president's power is not complete and final; that "the sovereign legislative power must provide for that intercourse and pass laws for the purpose," which law the president must respect. In all the discussion of Cuban affairs during the last administration, which covered the entire period of Grant's administrations and when there was nearly or quite as strong a sentiment for the Cubans as there is now, it was never questioned that the power to accord belligerent rights or to recognize the independence of the Cubans belonged exclusively to the executive.

In view of all this it will be difficult for the advocates of the authority of congress to declare the so-called republic of Cuba independent and compel the president to respect it to sustain their position. The uniform policy since the beginning of the government is against them and it is hardly to be doubted that if an issue is made on this question between the legislative and executive branches of the government the weight of public opinion will be with the latter.

RECKLESS BANK OFFICIALS.

The failure of the National bank of Illinois is another illustration of reckless bank management, of which the examples are numerous. The bank had been in operation twenty-five years and had a strong place in public confidence, but the men who should have carefully guarded the institution—the directors—recklessly allowed the officials to do business in their own way and the result is failure. The comptroller of the currency unjustifiably states that the responsibility rests with the directors. He says that their attention had been individually called to the reckless and independent methods followed by the officers, but they disregarded the admonition, though pronouncing over their signatures to remedy the weak points in the bank's condition. Possibly that condition had grown to be so bad that they found they could not remedy it, but the statement of the comptroller implies that they made no effort to. In that case they were guilty of culpable negligence and it is to be regretted that there is no adequate legal punishment for them—no lawful means by which they can be made an example of.

AS TO A TARIFF COMMISSION.

There appears to be a considerable sentiment in New England favorable to the creation by congress of a permanent tariff commission, to be composed of experts and business men and as far as possible non-partisan in character. Some manufacturers in that section are said to favor this and a few commercial bodies have expressed themselves in support of the proposition. But the most conspicuous advocate of a tariff commission is the assistant secretary of the treasury, Mr. Hamlin, who it is needless to say is opposed to the principle of protection. If he be not an absolute free trader. A letter of Mr. Hamlin is published in which he says: "If we could have a non-partisan commission of experts consisting of men of the highest character and reputation, its reports would afford a ground for honest compromise upon which free traders and protectionists could stand together; the people of this country would then be left free to array themselves on purely political questions, with that party in whose hands they believe the government to be safest." This sounds well as a theory, but there is reason to think that the commission plan would not work so well in practice. Asked what he thought of the policy of creating a tariff commission, Mr. Dingley, chairman of the house committee on ways and means, said that the work of such a commission would be of very little practical value unless the commission consisted of members of congress. "The bill itself," said Mr. Dingley, "must be enacted by congress representing various districts and local interests. They will insist on having such a bill as they want, whether it is recommended by a commission or not. This was the case with the tariff commission of 1882. It was not a question of the

value and high character of its work, but of the adoption of the recommendations made by members with different views and who were themselves responsible for the enactment of a tariff law. The report of the commission was not the basis of the act of 1882 and no such report is likely to exert a controlling influence on congress." This is a practical view of the matter by one who has had a long legislative experience and knows how tenacious members of congress are of their own views and how uncompromising they are in supporting the wishes of their constituents in the matter of tariff legislation. No recommendations of a commission, as Mr. Dingley says, are likely to exert a controlling influence on congress, for the obvious reason that most congressmen not only believe themselves to be fully qualified to decide for themselves what tariff legislation is best for the country, but they have also local interests to look after that they would never be willing to surrender to the care of a commission.

Such being the case, the work of a tariff commission would be of very little if any value and the cost to the people of such a body would be practically a waste. A commission of nine members, as has been proposed, with the necessary clerical force, would involve an expenditure of probably not less than \$100,000 per annum and it is impossible to see how the people would get an adequate return for this outlay. Moreover, the idea of an absolutely non-partisan commission is impractical. From the view taken of this proposition by Chairman Dingley it is very safe to conclude that it will receive no consideration from the present congress and as the next congress will, it is presumed, pass a tariff law which will continue in effect at least four years, there will be no demand after that is accomplished for a commission, at any rate not during the term of the republican administration. Should the democrats succeed to power the commission idea will certainly not prevail. The outlook, therefore, for this method of taking the tariff out of politics is altogether unpromising.

SOME MISTAKEN IDEAS CORRECTED.

The legislature should make a suitable appropriation to aid the Transmississippi Exposition. Nebraska does not do things by halves. For the credit of the state the exposition should be a hummer.—Central City Nonpareil.

The slave was probably written for the consumption of the Omaha papers. But, really, Mr. Nonpareil, what do you think would be a "suitable appropriation" of \$200,000 and which do you think would be to the credit of the state, to try and pay some of our debts or to make more debts? We love Omaha, but are too hard up to buy her a silk dress for 1898. Let her wear her old calico dress or go without.—Silver Creek Times.

The editor of the Silver Creek Times is one of the members-of-the coming legislature and ought not to be laboring under such a mistaken idea of the scope and purpose of the Transmississippi Exposition. The exposition is to be not an Omaha exposition, but an interstate and international exposition. In it will be gathered together not only exhibits illustrating the resources and industries of the entire transmississippi region, but also exhibits of such of the eastern and southern states and foreign nations as may accept the invitation to participate. While Omaha will receive incidental benefits from the exposition, the greatest fit will accrue not to the city which will be called upon to bear the largest part of the burden, but to the people of the state at large and of the western states generally, to which it will attract the attention of capital and labor just at the time when capital and labor are necessary for their development and progress.

Neither is the shulle of the silk dress in any way applicable to the proposition. The question is not, Can Nebraska afford to make a suitable appropriation in aid of the exposition? but rather, Can Nebraska afford not to make a suitable and liberal appropriation? If Nebraska does not do something to bring capital into the state, encourage immigration and restore property values on which its revenue depends, how soon can it hope to pay its honest debts? The exposition will add more to the taxable wealth of the state in two years than all the enterprises of the past decade. The money spent on the exposition will not be in the nature of a gift, but rather an investment upon which immediate returns will be had many times the original outlay. Instead of a luxury like a silk dress, it is an absolute necessity if we are to have an early revival of business activity and hold our own along with other western states against the east and south, which are springing no effort to lead in the industrial race. If the financial conditions of the state and communities in it are not what they should be, that is to be regretted. Improvement, however, must come through the infusion of new capital and population into the west and the Transmississippi Exposition points the only sure way of achieving that much-desired object without unnecessary delay.

THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION REPORT.

The Interstate Commerce Commission report reads a scathing denunciation of ticket brokerage and ticket brokers. It calls the business an illegitimate traffic and a positive scandal, and demands legislation to put an end to its abuses. It falls, however, to allude to the notorious fact that the ticket brokers have been encouraged and held up by the railroads and even at times provided with special low rate tickets for the very purpose of evading restrictions imposed by the interstate law. The brokers could not possibly exist without the sanction of the railroad company. If the companies really want ticket brokerage abolished they have it entirely within their power to accomplish their purpose. Let them provide patron the same accommodations

for the same money that the brokers do and the latter will no longer have an excuse for existence. It looks as if the railroads are raising a cry against the brokers simply to divert attention from some of their own misdoings.

Under the influence of its sudden spasms of pretended virtue and morality our amiable contemporary makes the sweeping charge that all the legislation that has threatened injury to the material interests of Nebraska is to be laid at the door of the republican party and all the beneficial laws are to be credited to the populists. Every man of ordinary intelligence knows that hoodlums and corruptors are not confined to one party, although they are usually more active in the party that happens to be for the time dominant. The vicious legislation of Nebraska, however, has seldom been enacted as party measures. Whenever there is a bundle scheme in sight it attracts the thrifty member without regard to political affiliation. As a rule the honest and conscientious men are in the majority and by acting together can direct and control the work of the legislature. When the line is drawn between honest men and hoodlums, citizens and taxpayers need not fear the result.

THE TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION MANAGERS.

The Tennessee Centennial exposition managers are to be congratulated on the passage through the house of representatives of their bill providing for a government building and exhibit at their great show. The success of the Tennessee Centennial exposition has been assured for some time, but this adds to the attractions which it will hold out to visitors from all parts of the country.

Hon. Samuel Allerton of Chicago in a public letter asserts his belief that he could accomplish more for his farmer friends as senator than he could do as secretary of agriculture. Mr. Allerton ought to explain whether he is exaggerating the possibilities of a senatorship or belittling the powers of the head of the Agricultural department.

Modern Destinies.

Chicago Times Herald. A thief nowadays who infers our neighbor's house is called a "psychic epileptic" and an alderman is called "one of our best citizens."

Perpetuous Cuban Politicians.

Cuba is but little heard in the United States. The news here is from the Spanish on the one side and from ex-Cubans on the other, who infer our neighbor's house for an opportunity to go back under protection of the stars and stripes and reassert themselves in places where they had very patriotic they left behind. Now is the time when Cubans ought to be in Cuba.

Swelling the Pension Roll.

It is proposed seriously to put on the pension roll repentant confederate soldiers who, being hungry and ragged, deserted, enlisted in the union army, and fought the Indians in Minnesota or harrassed people on the Canadian frontier. If they are dead their families are to be pensioned. Would not this be a better use of the money than the pension roll calls for a yearly appropriation of \$140,000,000, thirty years after the war has closed, and when the recipients are getting old and infirm? Congress can put the little time at its disposal to better use than by considering measures of this kind.

Small Vote for Southern Electors.

The official returns of the vote of Nebraska at the late election show the aggregate vote to be 225,991. The vote of South Carolina, as given by the Augusta Chronicle, was 68,181 only, and of Mississippi 69,463 only. Yet both of these southern states have a greater population than Nebraska, the former estimates being 1,375,000 for South Carolina, 1,359,000 for Mississippi and only 1,160,000 for Nebraska. Mississippi and South Carolina have nine electors apiece, while Nebraska only has eight. As they were all Bryan states, we put them together to show how easy it is for a republican oligarchy to carry the government. What a tussel Bryan had in the northwestern states.

Paranoid to Binationalism.

The Omaha Bee deserves credit for its persistent and methodical agitation of one of the cardinal doctrines of the populist platform—the establishment of postal savings banks by the United States government. It is common practice now in some populist circles to resist the Bee. This paper in answer to the agitators, says: "The Omaha Bee, but in common fairness he continued and valuable educational work for one of the great reforms of the century ought to be acknowledged by those who have picked themselves to it in their national platform. The establishment of postal savings banks, already a proven success in many countries of the world, is the first long step toward bringing the entire banking system under public ownership. In its ultimate benefits it is therefore paramount to binationalism for its logical sequence is to take the banking corporations out of the field of politics and make them what they are, mere business concerns. With a sound government banking system furnishing the people money at the cost of conducting the business, the function of silver and gold would cut little figure in exchange. Senator Allen can do no more valuable service for his country than to push the postal savings bank reform in congress."

NOW BEFORE THE SECRETARY.

Amended Articles of Incorporation of the Exposition Association.

FINAL MOVES TO NATIONAL RECOGNITION.

Have Mercer Prepares a Bill to Remedy Some Technical Defects in the Law and Save the Appropriation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(Special Telegram.)—At last the articles of incorporation of the Transmississippi and International Exposition Association have been received and have been presented to the treasury officials by Representative Mercer. Assistant Secretary Curtis received them and after examination stated that they appeared to cover all points and promised Mr. Mercer that the Treasury department would act at once. Until action is taken by this branch of government it has been impossible to move toward securing an appropriation, and this is what held up Senator Allen's resolution, which has been referred to Senator Thurston's committee on international exhibitions. Just as soon, however, as the Treasury department passes upon the articles of incorporation and certifies to stock subscription, the legislative branch of the government will proceed to make certain appropriations. Mercer will tomorrow introduce a bill to remedy some of the technical objections made by the Treasury department to the bill in its present form. This is done that no possible slip may be made in having the position of all itself of the appropriation as contemplated in the bill as now a law. The course of recognition is to amend the bill to cover the technical objections made by the Treasury department to the bill in its present form. This is done that no possible slip may be made in having the position of all itself of the appropriation as contemplated in the bill as now a law. The course of recognition is to amend the bill to cover the technical objections made by the Treasury department to the bill in its present form. This is done that no possible slip may be made in having the position of all itself of the appropriation as contemplated in the bill as now a law.

THE SENATE AND CUBA.

Chicago Tribune (rep.). The United States is not going to begin hostilities. Recognizing the independence of Cuba is not declaring war. But if Spain is the aggressor and begins a war this country will not be bound to remain neutral. Detroit Free Press (dem.). The point which Secretary Olney raises as to the power of congress to recognize Cuban independence is a very important one, and the result may be a serious clash between the legislative and executive departments of the government. Should the resolution of the senate committee on foreign affairs pass, both houses there will be expected eyes all over the country watching to see the fair begin to fly.

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Chicago Tribune: It is moved and seconded that Mr. Allen of Nebraska have leave to print the remainder of his remarks. Are you ready for the question? Mr. Allen: Yes. Globe-Democrat: Senator Allen does not seem to understand that the reason why so many votes were cast for McKinley was that he was a more popular man than usual for a duty to assert their patriotism on account of the free silver conspiracy against good government and the honest payment of debts. Courier-Journal: Mr. Allen is making long speeches in the senate protesting against the charge that "his people" would interfere with the right of contract, and characterizing such a charge as "a reflection on a poor and suffering but honest community." This, by the way, is the same Allen who was chairman of one of the committees reporting the three parties that tried to elect Bryan on a platform abolishing the right of contract.

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HERE THEY ARE MERRY X-MAS! Articles to make the heart glad Christmas. We offer a few timely suggestions to help you, if undecided— First see our windows for an idea of what a superb assortment of men's, boys' and children's wearing apparel we have. Our Douglas street window contains the very latest novelty dainties for boys and children—pretty suits—reefers—overcoats—waists—leggin—neckwear—mufflers—hats—caps—we have a selection of all fixings that are made for the little folks Douglas street window contained. You will there see represented our men's clothing made and sold by us alone—our own clothes—our own make—our own styles—which for durability, quality, honesty of make and elegance, lead the whole world. A suit—a coat—a vest—a pair of trousers—an overcoat—an ulster—would be a gift that would be appreciated and a lasting remembrance. Now look down Fifteenth street and see the magnificent display of furnishings—where will you find such an assortment of underwear—hosiery—shirts—garters—collars—cuffs—ties—night shirts—gloves—mufflers—bath robes—smoking jackets, etc—in fact every thing that the average man can think of—also a showing of hats and caps that are all right to have Santa Claus leave. All the leading blocks are shown at modest prices—and every article you find here rest assured is of finer quality and style than you can get elsewhere for the same money. Your money back if you are not suited—Open evenings BROWNING KING & CO., S. W. Cor. 15th and Douglas Sts.