

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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Senator Dubois now doubtless wishes he did not.

The railroads seem to be after the scalps of the scalpers.

Is it not pretty near time for the free silver republican members of the state senate to convene in a caucus of their own?

Chairman Jones' advice to the democrats in the Idaho legislature seems to have had about as much effect as a dipperful of water on a duck's back.

Strange, is it not, that the name of no Roman Catholic priest is appended to that clerical endorsement of the efficiency of our inefficient police department?

A body of thirty-three Omaha preachers giving a clean bill of health to the master of ceremonies at the famous Blair can-can is a spectacle fit for the gods.

One by one the transmississippi states and those nearest to the eastward are falling into line with either actual appropriations or promises of financial support for the exposition.

The legislative sphinx will have to break its silence before it can be determined whether the foot of the ladder reaching to the next populist gubernatorial nomination rests on the terra firma of the house or the senate.

Now that the presence of Lyman J. Gage in McKinley's cabinet is assured the World-Herald will doubtless learn that the Chicago financier had been heard of even before the publication of "Coin's Financial School."

Representatives of the peoples-independent party renouncing all independence in order to become abject subjects of King Caenus must present an edifying object lesson of the principles of the great reform party in practice.

Comptroller Eckels says that it is not so much lack of financial legislation that troubles us as lack of good public and private credit.

The legislature has concluded to let the railroads use their own discretion, as heretofore, in the matter of free transportation and the heart of many a patriot will beat with a more joyous pulse.

It is plain that the west is not to be a stepchild in President McKinley's official household. The president-elect realizes that he has been elected to lead the affairs of the whole country and not of any one section, and he is going to consider the needs and wishes of every state in the union.

The people of Michigan who insist that Governor Mayor Platteau has forfeited one of his offices might have been more correct in their efforts to oust him if they could only agree among themselves whether the governor has forfeited the morality or the mayor forfeited the gubernatorial office.

In the interval there is supposed to be a half million dollars of uninvested money lying idle in the permanent school fund out of which the school children of Nebraska are entitled to returns of interest. Is the legislature going to do anything to have the profit from the use of this public money accrue to the public?

The directors of the Transmississippi Exposition were chosen by the stockholders on account of their fitness to administer the affairs of the great undertaking. The choice of a site is one of the most important matters which they will have to consider. It was not intended that questions like this should be delegated to imported experts for final settlement.

It should not be forgotten that the attorney general has given an opinion to the effect that the law authorizing the substitution of guaranty company bonds for personal bonds is unconstitutional and void. If the attorney general is correct then a great many public officers are serving without having given the security contemplated by the law. This is a matter far too serious to be ignored by the authorities whose duty it is to see that the laws are enforced.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

It will hardly be questioned that the most important of the cabinet positions under the incoming administration is that of secretary of the treasury. It is no disparagement of any other executive department to say this. Every-body understands that the State department, at the head of which will be the veteran statesman, John Sherman, will have much important work to do. International questions of a more or less delicate and difficult nature will require consideration and action and upon their wise and prudent treatment may depend the maintenance of peaceful relations with the world. No one who has an intelligent appreciation of the scope of international affairs and who correctly apprehends the significance of the position assumed by the United States regarding its rights and responsibilities in the western hemisphere, can underestimate the importance of the office of secretary of state. Recognition of this importance by President-elect McKinley was attested by his selection for that office of the most distinguished of republican statesmen. So with respect to the War, Navy, Interior, Postoffice, Agricultural and Judicial departments, they all have highly important work to do, requiring for its proper and efficient performance men at the heads of these several departments of first rate ability.

But the matters which most directly and closely relate to the interests and welfare of the American people are financial and economic. There must be instituted a policy to increase the revenue of the government and to revive the industries and business of the people. There is a demand for some change in the currency system which will remove or modify the inequalities in its operation now complained of. There is required a treasury policy which will contribute to the upbuilding of financial confidence and strengthen the credit of the government. It is the duty of congress, of course, to provide for all this, but a secretary of the treasury in whose judgment congress can have faith will exert a great deal of influence in shaping the economic and financial policy of the government. Such a man will not merely pursue a routine course in carrying out the laws; he will be an active force in shaping the laws which he is to execute, so long as there shall be a congress in political accord with the administration.

There is reason to believe that Mr. Lyman J. Gage will be a secretary of this kind, that bringing to the duties of the office long experience as a practical financier, together with the wisdom obtained from a careful study of financial and economic questions, he will have the confidence of congress to an extent which will assure thorough consideration of his views and recommendations. That he will have no radical currency reforms to urge may be safely assumed, for otherwise he probably would not have been selected. It has been suggested that Mr. Gage is favorable to the policy of retiring the United States legal tender notes, but this is improbable in view of the fact that Major McKinley is not in favor of that plan. It is also said that he is not for bimetallism, financial or international. Major McKinley is not unfriendly to international bimetallism and it is not likely that he would select for secretary of the treasury a man who is. What can positively be said of Mr. Gage is that he firmly believes in the existing monetary standard and there is his own assurance that the administration of the Treasury department will be strictly on business principles. There is reason to think that the president-elect has selected the right man for the head of the financial department of the government.

THE ANTI-TRUST CRUSADE.

One by one the states are falling into line in the crusade against the trusts. The successful operation of the Georgia law against the combinations seems to have inspired a quite general inclination to follow the example and it appears certain that the present year will witness the passage of stringent anti-trust laws in many states.

The Massachusetts legislature has before it an anti-trust law of a decidedly drastic character. It makes any combination or any person or corporation to fix or regulate the price of any article of merchandise or commodity a conspiracy to defraud, which shall be punished by a fine of from \$500 to \$2,000 for the first offense and so on up to a fine of \$15,000. Another bill makes it a criminal offense for any person or corporation to try to influence the prices of articles of merchandise, imposing penalties as high as a fine of \$5,000 and two years imprisonment. It also provides that any corporation which enters into a trust forfeits its charter if under Massachusetts law and if a foreign corporation it can no longer do business in the state.

General state legislation of this kind could not fail to be effective against the monopolistic combinations if rigidly enforced and undoubtedly it is the only sure way of dealing a deathblow to the trusts. There is favorable promise that such legislation will become general in a few years.

A MODERATE DEMAND.

The manufacturers of the country are generally in favor of moderate tariff duties. This is shown by the action of the representatives of the National Association of Manufacturers, who adopted a resolution declaring that duties should be made consistent with adequate protection of our manufacturing and agricultural industries and the labor they employ. It is true there were members of the convention who favored high duties, but they constituted a small minority. In thus putting themselves on record as favoring only such duties as will give reasonable protection to industries and labor, the manufacturers have disarmed criticism and put themselves in a position to exert an influence upon congress and the country. Their moderate demand will have the effect to simplify the task of framing a new tariff bill, while it most convincingly all but the radical and uncompromising opponents of protection that the men who are at the head of the great industrial enterprises

of the country are seeking only the institution of a policy that will secure the prosperity of all the people.

It may not be easy to define what duties are consistent with adequate protection to industries and labor, but every-body can understand that they are not such duties as are provided in the existing tariff law. These, a few schedules excepted, have not given adequate protection, while as a revenue measure the law has been an utter failure. Still it has defenders, who insist that it ought to be given a further trial, that notwithstanding steadily accumulating treasury deficits more than two years of experiment with this law has not been a sufficient time in which to demonstrate whether or not it is what the country wants.

The new tariff bill, which it is said upon the authority of the chairman of the ways and means committee will be ready for submission when the next congress meets in special session in March, will undoubtedly be constructed upon moderate lines, but it will give needed protection and if it shall become law will revive industries and invite capital to embark in productive enterprises.

THE PREACHERS AND THE POLICE.

The thirty-three preachers who by petition to the legislature have ventured to assure the members of that honorable body that the police department of Omaha, as now administered and after eighteen months' test under severest conditions, was never "so free from scandal and reproach of every description, so well disciplined, harmonious and efficient," may imagine they can fool the legislators into that belief and may even have been fooled into that belief themselves, but they cannot hope to fool anybody who lives in Omaha and is at all conversant with the condition of the city and the work of the police since the present police commission law, which the preachers want left unchanged went into effect.

Nineteen of the preachers who have volunteered this testimonial have not been in charge of Omaha pulpits for the eighteen months past of which they speak and of the others it is plain that many were induced to subscribe to the statements in the petition on representations of others and without any personal knowledge of the facts.

The Bee does not hesitate to assert without fear of successful contradiction that none of the reforms which were promised in support of the new police commission law two years ago have materialized. Instead of reform the police department has gone steadily backward.

Instead of being free from scandal and reproach it has been and is the center of lawlessness and a disgrace to the city of Omaha.

Instead of being well disciplined it is utterly without discipline, incompetently officered and constantly attempting to evade the responsibility for its own failures by laying the blame upon others.

If the police force is harmonious it is the harmony only of incompetents consulting one another in their helplessness.

Instead of being efficient the police department was never in recent years more inefficient, never more oblivious to the carnival of unpunished crime being held under its very nose, never so blind to the defiance of law and morality by protected favorites.

These are strong charges, but they are proved by the record of bogus police reform. The misrepresentation practiced on the preachers makes it incumbent on The Bee to uncover that record in all its hideousness.

NEBRASKA MUST LEAD.

The Lenora Sentinel says that the people of Iowa should be interested in the Transmississippi Exposition. This may be true, but there is time enough to get excited after the people of Nebraska have shown that they want it.—Sioux City Tribune.

There is no question that the people of Nebraska want the Transmississippi Exposition in 1898, and if the matter of a liberal appropriation for a state exhibit were left to the people it would be voted almost unanimously and without delay.

The legislature, by whom the appropriation will be made, will doubtless voice the sentiment of the people in this matter when it is brought up for formal action. At the same time the fact is not to be concealed that the lenient procedure of the Nebraska legislature with respect to the exposition bill is not calculated to encourage the other transmississippi states to come to the front with a generous provision for representation at Omaha. These states are waiting for Nebraska to announce officially what it intends to do, and they may be relied upon to follow in a manner creditable to themselves and the great west.

The signature of Governor Holcomb on an exposition bill passed by the Nebraska legislature would be worth more just now as an irresistible inducement to its neighbors to participate in this great enterprise than all other arguments combined.

The Bee has always contended that the mayor ought to have a place of office on the police board. It has taken this position not because of the personality of the occupant for the time being of the mayor's office, but because it believes that the mayor, upon whom devolves the responsibility for maintaining law and order, and who is practically dictator in time of riot or unusual disturbance, should have power over the police corresponding to the responsibility. The fact that the mayor happens to be an elective officer does not invalidate these sound arguments.

It is remarkable how Union Pacific stock maintains a place on the Stock Exchange, even at nominal quotations. Just before the funding bill came up for action of the house, it jumped from between 6 and 7 to 9, but has since fallen

back to 7, or a trifle over. If the roads go to foreclosure the stock is of course wiped out and rendered absolutely valueless, and the fact that it is now quoted at all can be ascribed only to pure speculation or a contingency so remote that even the most reckless stock gambler would not want to risk much on it.

It is amusing to have a batch of new ministerial importations give expert testimony to the success of the present police department, "as now administered and after eighteen months' test under severest conditions," when a majority of them have not been in charge of Omaha congregations for eighteen months and a goodly proportion have been in Nebraska barely long enough to have acquired citizenship.

HARMON'S CREDIT MARK.

It will be a great honor to Attorney General Harmon if he is able to make a final wind-up of the annoying business relating to the Union Pacific railroad. The compromise and the question removed from the courts is better for all the parties in interest, and for the public at large.

The Arbitration Fever.

The good effect of the arbitration treaty is seen in the rapid negotiation of a treaty with France for a treaty on similar lines, but going further in its safeguards against war. The signed and sealed compact between England and the United States will be to all the world a lamp lighting the way of peace.

Holcomb's Poll Tax Plan.

Governor Holcomb of Nebraska has urged the legislature to pass a law which will provide that it shall be permitted to citizens who vote and collected only from those who fail to do so. The idea was not a happy one, but it was a just one. Instead of making the franchise expensive to those who exercise it, the real interest in the franchise should be served by imposing a penalty upon citizens who neglect their duty on election day.

The Tariff Bill and the Senate.

There is a fair prospect now that the republicans will be able to get their tariff bill passed by the senate. The bill, which has been re-elected in North Carolina, is toward free silver, but it is a straight-out republican on the tariff question. Some of the republicans in the senate are also expected to vote for the tariff bill without asking for any favors for silver in return. The tariff malcontents and irreconcilables in the senate are few in number and are at the utmost, thus they will not be very powerful for obstructive purposes.

Americans Expelled from Germany.

Probably there is occasion to get excited over the reported expulsion of Americans from Germany. The action seems to be directed against German-Americans only and is not directed against the German people. It is a cruel and unjust action, and it is to be hoped that the American government will not permit itself to be bullied by the action of a few fanatics in Germany.

The Power of the Press.

A statistician has calculated that the annual aggregate of the circulation of the papers of the world is estimated to be 12,000,000,000. To easily discourage a single man to read the papers of the world is a task of no small magnitude. It is a task which requires the cooperation of all the nations of the world.

Wheat and Corn States.

Iowa leads as a corn-producer, the crop of 1896 being estimated at 221,719,541 bushels. The next in order of production are: Illinois, 284,572,764 bushels; Kansas, 176,784,425 bushels; Michigan, 176,784,425 bushels; Indiana, 133,485,265 bushels; Ohio, 123,691,957 bushels; Kentucky, 80,832,348 bushels. Thus Indiana stands sixth in the list, with 123,691,957 bushels.

A NEW CURRENCY PLAN.

Ex-Governor Hoar of Iowa Projects a Plan. Chicago Chronicle. Ex-Governor Hoar is out with another financial plan. It is his notion that the country is perishing for want of a good monetary system which will give us twice as much money of "final redemption" and that the missing link is the want of a new currency.

The notion is a mistake. This country would soon have an abundant supply of money of final redemption if only a whole lot of the stuff which ought to be finally redeemed were taken in and extinguished. The mode of getting enough money of "final redemption" is exceedingly simple.

Mr. Hoar and other advocates are making their brains to find ways of providing loads of money by act of congress would save the country from the economic disaster which would result if they would simply issue the money they need.

This thing cannot be done in any other way than by printing the money, and it is a mistake to think that the money can be printed by any other means. The money can be printed by any other means.

The new money plan is not worth discussing. It is a complicated and foggy thing which nobody can understand it and no two persons, even in this country, can be induced to support it. It is based on the delusion that the best thing ever heard of would be paper, that the paper would be good because it would be printed in gold, but that it would be so much better than the coin in which it was redeemed that it would never be presented for redemption.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

Minneapolis Journal: The new Central American canal project is being revived. Senator Morgan's Nicaragua ditch, Nicaragua is now only a state in the republic. A new power has arisen that knows not Moses.

Philadelphia Inquirer: The canal would be an incalculable value. From a government standpoint we must be able to protect our coast lines from invasion, and thus strengthen our navy materially. The long trip around Cape Horn would be avoided.

Buffalo Express: The chapter by Mrs. Bryan on her husband's mouth and how she met him, and the poem by Mr. Wilcox insure at least a part of the book against being read by the public.

THAT EXPANSIVE SMILE.

Minneapolis Tribune: Mrs. Bryan testifies, in her biography of her husband, that what she noticed first about him was his expansive smile. This, however, has been greatly modified of late years, and especially since the last election.

Chicago Post: Mrs. Bryan says that "no one has seen the real breadth of that smile of his for some time in the early days," are Mr. Bryan's checks checked "the outward march." With wifely loyalty Mrs. Bryan stamps as a campaign lie the story of a husband who would not be seen in his own car, but he had less flesh than he had bone.

Milwaukee Sentinel: "I noted particularly," says Mrs. Bryan with pleasing candor, "his smile. It was a former black and white, fine in quality and parted distressingly straight, the latter expansive and expressive. In later years this smile has been a subject of considerable comment, but the well-rounded cheeks of Mr. Bryan, now check his onward march, and no one has seen the real breadth of the smile who did not see it in the early days."

The St. Louis Board of Health has placed the example of New York and followed the recommendation in the list of contagious diseases.

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TRAVELING MEN'S DEMANDS.

The Iowa Movement for Interchangeable Mileage Books. Chicago Tribune. The traveling men of Iowa are making a determined fight to compel railroads to sell mileage books for 1,000 miles or more at a rate of fare not to exceed 2 cents a mile, the books to be interchangeable on all the roads in the state.

The demand for interchangeable mileage books is objected to chiefly because the roads fear they would more easily fall into the hands of scalpers, as it would be more difficult under this system to keep track of the identity of the original purchaser. The roads, moreover, in considering the subject, have found a change of this character would be awkward and troublesome, and that it would be a great disadvantage to the management.

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