

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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PUBLICITY THE REMEDY.

The failure of another state depository bank last week, carrying with it state funds in excess of the amount covered by its bond, calls attention anew to the reckless management of the state's finances under the Bartley regime, and to the fact that the vicious treasury methods introduced by Bartley have not yet been entirely repudiated and discarded.

The doctrine that the state funds are to be used as physic for sick banks is not to be countenanced for a moment. There are plenty of strong and healthy banks in Nebraska for the safekeeping of all the money in the treasury. The mere fact that a bond has been filed for the purpose of making a bank a state depository entails no legal or moral obligation on the treasurer to place public money at its disposal contrary to his best judgment, and the fact that a bank had been unable or unwilling to take the money is no excuse for the treasurer to turn over to it to have given ample excuse for promptly withdrawing the state's deposits.

While all of the depository banks now on the list, with a few exceptions, are said to be in sound condition, and the prospects are that the end of the bank failures has about been reached, there is still a demand for further reform of the state's finances. None of the instances in which state money has been held up in broken banks can justify being laid at the doors of the depository laws, but are to be ascribed rather to a violation of their plain provisions and a defiant disregard of the rules of safe banking. If full publicity were given to all our treasury transactions no state treasurer would be able to keep money in any depository in excess of the sum guaranteed by its bond without a vigorous protest from the taxpayers. There is no valid reason whatever why the public should not be taken into the confidence of the state treasurer and kept informed of the disposition of the public money. So long as under the law banking of state funds is permitted, so long will the taxpayers run the risk of being victimized in the dark.

TARIFF BILL CONSIDERATION.

The tariff bill will be taken up for consideration in the senate tomorrow, the democrats having decided in caucus not to make any opposition to immediately proceeding with its discussion. It also appears that they are not disposed to unnecessarily prolong debate, being content, according to Senator Gorman, with a fair discussion of the measure. It is impossible to say what the democrats will regard as fair, but they are certainly manifesting a better disposition than had been expected. If they continue in this mood it ought to be possible to get a vote on the bill within thirty days and it seems probable that this will be done.

The democrats will vigorously antagonize the proposed increase tax on beer, tobacco and cigars, on the ground that it is not necessary and that the burdens on those articles should not be increased. The real motive of this opposition, however, is political. The democrats see in the increased tax on beer especially an opportunity to make political capital with the brewing interest and of course they will improve it. The probability is, therefore, that the proposed increase in internal revenue taxes will not be made, since there are some republicans who are not favorable to it. The democratic senators are to be commended for their recognition of the fact that the business interests of the country are anxious to have the tariff bill speedily disposed of and it is to be hoped those senators will keep this fact constantly in mind.

WHAT IT WOULD MEAN.

A great many people are inclined to look upon the attempt that is being made to overthrow the new charter in the courts with comparative unconcern because they do not know what its success would mean. While the charter unquestionably is improved upon in many respects, its overthrow now that it has been accepted and the municipal government has been adjusted to its provisions would entail positive injury upon both the city and the taxpayers.

First and foremost, a return to the old charter would make the entire cost of the recent city election a waste of money pure and simple, without anything whatever to show for the expenditure involved. The cost of this election is not confined to the \$88,000 or \$100,000 drawn out of the city treasury to pay for clerks, judges, printing, booths and so forth. It includes the campaign expenses of all parties, the loss of time of participants in the canvass, the interruption of business and trade. Elections would be expensive luxuries if they were to be indulged in frivolously without object and without result.

A return to the old charter would mean the invalidation of the \$50,000 repaying bonds that were voted at the time the present city officers were elected. It is absolutely necessary to have the proceeds of the sale of these bonds available before the city can do any repaving or other work that can be put into passable condition. With the position now at a standstill for a whole season at the present time would cripple the mass of additional irrecoverably.

Another dilemma in which the city would find itself should the new charter be declared void would arise from its embarrassment with respect to its renewal bonds. To preserve the city's credit it will be necessary to renew a great many district improvement bonds that are now falling due. While the city has claimed the right to issue these bonds, several sales have been declared off because its authority to do so under the old charter was questioned. The new charter expressly affirms the power of the city to issue renewal bonds and places the validity of such bonds beyond the possibility of doubt. Revoke this express authority and the city would find it most difficult if not impossible to

secure purchasers for its renewal bonds.

These are all points where the new charter touches the taxpaying citizen vitally and where the overthrow of the charter at this time would mean personal and pecuniary loss to him. In addition there are numerous good features in the charter which were pointed out by The Bee when it was pending in the legislature and which are improvements on the old order. Its defects, on the other hand, can, if necessary, be endured and remedied later.

ENCOURAGING SUGAR BEET CULTURE.

The state of New York will give a bonus of \$25,000 a year to manufacturers of beet sugar, the purpose being to encourage the production of the sugar beet in that state. The farmers of New York are manifesting a great deal of interest in the matter and there is reason to believe that the cultivation of sugar beets will in the near future become an important industry there, to the material benefit of the farmers. It is said that the soil of the western portion of New York is well adapted to beet raising and if this is the case there is likely to be a large production within the next few years and the establishment of a number of factories.

The Philadelphia Ledger suggests that there seems to be no good reason why the individual states should not encourage manufacturers and producers by offering cash bonuses and in other ways, instead of depending on the national government for everything of the kind. There can be no doubt that it would be good policy for the states in which the sugar beet can be successfully cultivated and it is highly probable that the example of New York in this matter will be extensively followed. There is no longer a question that the United States can produce all the sugar consumed here and thus keep in the country the enormous sum of money annually paid to foreign sugar producers. Such being the case there is no conceivable reason why this industry should not be fostered and extended as rapidly as practicable. The distribution of more than \$100,000,000 a year among our agricultural producers and to the labor that would be employed in manufacturing sugar would be a most material benefit to a very large number of our people. Indeed, all the people would be benefited, for when we should be independent of other countries for our sugar supply and there was unrestricted competition in the manufacture of sugar, that article would be permanently cheapened to the consumer.

With a reasonable protection to sugar in the tariff, supplemented by some such encouragement to its production as New York has given, in a few years American beet sugar would supplant the foreign product in our market and in the course of no very long time we should be in a position to export sugar. The mobilizing of the sugar industry of the United States is a duty of the highest importance. Every consideration of self-interest demands it.

GERMAN COMMERCIAL ENERGY.

The energy shown by German merchants and manufacturers, in pushing for trade in every quarter of the world, is notable and they are meeting with marked success. The latest volume of consular reports records the progress that Germany is making in extending her trade in South America, specific reference being made to the Argentine Republic. It appears that while England is still ahead in the trade with that republic, Germany is rapidly reducing the distance between them. It is stated that in certain products of iron Germany has not only gained the lead, but has forced England almost out of the Argentine markets.

The American consul at Chemnitz says the reasons for this are to be found in the German's willingness to work for modest profits, in the thoroughness with which he studies other people's wants and wishes, in the care he takes to fill, in the best, quickest and cheapest way, even very small orders, and, last but not least, in the easy but long credits granted. These factors are making Germany a great industrial state and the consul suggests that they cannot be neglected by any country that hopes to compete profitably in commerce in South America or in any foreign country.

It would seem that the example of German merchants and manufacturers, in the matter of extending their foreign trade, might well be carefully considered by the merchants and manufacturers of the United States. With the advantages which the latter enjoy in being nearer to the South American markets, it is something of a reflection upon their business energy and enterprise to find that European countries steadily increasing its trade there, while American trade with those markets is not growing, if indeed it is not declining. So far as position is concerned the United States is more favorably situated than any other country for commanding South American trade, but something more than that is necessary, and this seems to be lacking. However, American manufacturers have within the last year or two shown a livelier interest in this southern trade and they may in the near future put forth stronger efforts to obtain their share of it. Manifestly unless they can accomplish this our industrial development must come to a halt, for our productive capacity is now very greatly in excess of the requirements of the home market, even if foreign competition should be entirely shut off.

The imported experts employed by the Bolin bondsmen to check up the books in the city treasurer's office have been heard from again and are saying just the things they were hired to say. They insist now as before that the shortage is comparatively nominal, and more particularly that the missing money was stolen, not from the city, but from the school board. They discover, they intimate further, ought to furnish grounds for a new trial for Bolin or at least a shortening of his sentence. This would be important if true, but in what position does it leave the hired experts? They were present at the trial of Bolin and had then completed their work on the books, but they declined to offer any

testimony in his favor and calmly stood by while he was sentenced to nineteen years' imprisonment.

If they knew anything to his advantage why did they not speak? It is not manifest that their omnibus interviews given out from Cleveland at this late day are only part of the play to bolster up the proposed defense of the bondsmen who want to shift upon the taxpayers the loss they themselves agreed to bear?

With its characteristic antediluvian enterprise, our amiable contemporary rebukes as something new and startling the rumored decision of the United States supreme court in the Nebraska maximum freight rate cases favorable to the railroads which The Bee printed nearly two weeks ago. The information then given publicly in The Bee came from reliable sources—that is to say, as reliable as is available in advance of the court's decision, and the idea that the state's attorney should now express astonishment at having the report repeated is too preposterous even for one of our contemporary's customary fakes.

It was originally expected that the foreclosure of the Union Pacific railroad would be completed before the expiration of Mr. Cleveland's presidential term. Nearly three months of President McKinley's term has expired and the foreclosure is not perceptibly nearer. If the representatives of the government in the foreclosure suit want to win popular approval, they will push the proceedings to as speedy a close as possible, so that the reorganization of this great railroad system on a solvent basis may take place without factions delay.

Good Londoners are said to be being terribly annoyed and inconvenienced by the preparations in progress for the queen's diamond jubilee. But a jubilee would not be worth mentioning without the host of foreign visitors in attendance on the fete. The experience of all great cities is that celebrations that attract large crowds always call forth complaints from people who think their rights have been invaded, but as a rule and as a whole they are worth all that is spent on entertaining guests.

Under the new charter no unadjusted claim against the city handed down from a preceding administration can be settled by the council until it has been adjudicated in the courts. As there are a number of such claims of disputed validity or amount, it ought not to be long before the city is presented with a few new lawsuits. The sooner those claims are adjudicated and the people are apprised of the precise nature of their outstanding indebtedness the better for all concerned.

It is not the place of the state treasurer to bolster up tottering banks with deposits of state funds. If any of the state depositories are in a shaky condition a due regard for the safety of the taxpayers' money would demand that the public funds be withdrawn before they are lost.

The annual convention of the National Educational association, if it shall be secured to Omaha for 1898, will be one of the largest and most beneficial to the city of all the national gatherings which are sought for the exposition year. The steps now being taken to secure it should receive general and hearty support.

An Excessive Debt.

Cuba never will be able to repay us for all we have had to endure in the line of oratory on her account.

John J. Seaver a Hit.

"Iridescence" Ingalls makes a neat verbal hit worthy of his old days when he speaks of Washington Justice in the Sugar Schedule case as being "stained and soothed by an angry water."

Howler Jealousy.

It costs \$14 for a five minutes' talk from New York to Omaha by the new telephone line. This is getting off easily. For a man who would talk to Omaha it ought to be \$100 and thirty days.

Back Number Burglars.

Chicago News-Herald. The burglars who tried to rob a bank in the old-fashioned way and failed completely, it served them right, too. In this age of progress, when a pretty typewriter can be hired for \$15 a week, anyone who uses dynamite, drills and revolvers deserves to fail.

His Sanctity Established.

Iowa has produced an anomaly in the shape of a legislator who refused his presence at the session of the general assembly. If it were not that he is a republican in politics, we should be tempted to suspect his sanity.

The Receding Flood.

New Orleans News-Herald. The river is now falling at New Orleans and at nearly all points; and we can say with the greatest confidence that the flood of 1897 is over, leaving only a few damages in Louisiana, particularly in the southern half of the state, than we had reason to hope for. The river rose high enough in all places to do a great deal of damage, but did not get up high as the engineers generally expected, and the extreme high water has not remained with us as long as predicted.

The Haven of Pure Democracy.

American Democracy, that is, Jefferson's idea of equal rights, equal laws, a man's right to life, liberty and the property he has earned, are still alive, as they always will be; but they are dead to the democratic party as it exists today. As a result of the deplorable influence exerted on the republic by Grover Cleveland and his disciples, Bryan, Bryan, Altgeld and Tillman, the Jeffersonian principles of democratic government, that are the basis of the republican party, are being sacrificed for all its specious vagaries which always been American at heart.

Sunday Laws in Canada.

Philadelphia Record. By a vote of 1643 against 15,554 the citizens of Toronto, Canada, decided on Saturday last the question of Sunday street cars. There was a majority of 49 in favor of running the cars on the ground that the running of the street cars during the past ten years. The campaign was mainly between the clergy and the business interests of the city. There was some conservative opposition to Sunday cars on the ground that it would compel men to labor seven days in the week. The clerical party talk of applying for an injunction to prevent the running of the cars on Sunday, but the business party has already taken steps to prevent this. It is not clear what the result will be, but it is not probable that an injunction will be granted. The running of Sunday railway transit, especially for the poorer people, and for saints as well as sinners, will reconcile all opposition to the innovation.

SETS A VALUABLE PRECEDENT.

Emerson Times. The supreme court has affirmed the decision of the lower court and Bolin, the defaulting treasurer of Omaha, will get nineteen years in the penitentiary. Mr. Moore and Bartley should be similarly dealt with.

Hastings Republican. The decision of the supreme court is that Henry Bolin, Omaha's defaulting treasurer, must do service in the state penitentiary for nineteen years at hard labor. This is another reason that it don't pay to steal money by the basket load.

Valley Enterprise. The honest people of Nebraska, by a long evasive and falter and have expressed a new hope in the courts of our state in protecting the tax payers against public thieves since Henry Bolin, ex-city treasurer of Omaha, has been a carefully placed behind the bars in the state penitentiary.

Present Tribune. The decision of the supreme court, sending Henry Bolin, Omaha's defaulting treasurer, to the penitentiary for nineteen years, shows that it is not safe to embezzle funds by the basketful with the expectation of escaping punishment. It is a warning to all public officials that require an occasional opinion of this kind to confirm the rumor.

Schuyler Quill. Henry Bolin, the defaulting treasurer of Omaha, who stole away \$105,000 of the city's cash, gets nineteen years in the penitentiary and is fined a double sum. This is a proper thing and should be a warning to all public officials.

West Point Republican. Much surprise is manifested by many of our people at the fact that a big Nebraska defaulter is going to get his just deserts at the hands of our state courts. The supreme court of Nebraska has just rendered its decision in the case of Henry Bolin, defaulting treasurer of Omaha, who has been sentenced to nineteen years and a fine of \$225,000.

Schuyler Sun. Henry Bolin, the defaulting official of Douglas county, has received a sentence of nineteen years in the penitentiary. While this may seem hard, and no doubt is to be deplored—not the sentence, but the fact that the sentence was necessary—yet it is no more than simple justice. It is not right that one man should reap wealth and influence at the hands of his fellow citizens and in the position of public trust, that trust should be held sacred. We know of two more defaulting officials that deserve the same sentence. These two are the public trustees of Douglas and Lincoln counties. It is a disgrace that such men should be allowed to go on in the public trust, when the willful violation of the trust sufficed for their punishment.

Auburn Granger. Possibly there has been a turn in the affairs of men who have been recent to their trusts and have gotten away with the people's money and then laughed at the attempts of the courts to place them behind prison bars. The ex-city treasurer of Omaha has been sentenced for a term of nineteen years. The county treasurer of Harlan county has been sentenced to a few years, while the fellow who colluded with him and borrowed (?) the people's money also gets a sentence to a term of several years. What a good thing that State Treasurer Bartley and ex-Auditor Moore will find that their shorthages have been discovered at the wrong time of the week, for the tide has turned and that these men will be obliged to cough up or go to prison?

Lincoln Times. Nineteen years for Henry Bolin. That is the sentence of the supreme court. For many years public thieves have been able to defy the law's stern call in Nebraska. Millions have been stolen, but never a thief has been punished. It is only the paltry penalty paid by Mosher. The people have believed the escape of public criminals was due to the sympathy of the courts with the high places, and the people, or many of them at least, have not been slow to speak their opinions in public places. But now the supreme court has had its ear pressed against the public pulse. At any rate, the high court yesterday affirmed the decision of the lower court, which sent Henry Bolin to the state penitentiary for a term of nineteen years. It is an inspiring decision. We do not gloat over the verdict of the law, but we do rejoice that our supreme court has at last been led to declare that there can be no aristocracy among criminals in Nebraska. The decision gives hope that the same punishment will be meted out to the other public plunderers. By this one decision the Nebraska supreme court has done much to check the fastidious sentimentality of our courts as they are ought to be. We congratulate the court, not because it has meted out punishment to one depraved and unfortunate man, but rather because its decision is a earnest that hereafter public stealing is to be made odious in Nebraska.

Lincoln News. It is now announced that the attorneys for Bolin, who took \$105,000 from the city of Omaha while acting as its treasurer, and whose conviction and sentence of nineteen years in the penitentiary has just been affirmed by the supreme court, propose to take the case on appeal to the supreme court of the United States, claiming that there is no writ in law or in equity for a writ of habeas corpus and trying a man for a grave offense upon simply the information of the state's attorney, but that he must be indicted by a grand jury. This is an attempt to escape punishment upon the baldness, sort of technicality, and attorneys who are making the most serious mistakes when they stretch the law in such fine points. Bolin was guilty of embezzlement, of that there can be no doubt, and he ought to be punished for it. The majority of the law courts in Iowa are of the opinion that if any court should turn him loose on the technical point evolved by the defendant, that will be regarded as the end of the matter. The fact that the people have become very weary of the repeated instances in the history of our state where men who have stolen public funds or plundered the public in some manner or another have escaped punishment because with part of the stolen money they were able to employ lawyers who recommended the appointment of a writ of habeas corpus, and that the courts have granted such a writ, is a very serious danger to the courts to continue work after such a precedent has been set. It is a dangerous because it inspires contempt for the courts and gives ground for impugning their integrity, and when this point is reached the foundation stone of our government is being shaken.

IOWA PRESS COMMENT.

Sioux City Journal. The wild rose of Iowa had the misfortune to get into the clutches of a party of the week of its official existence as state flower. The poor rose is almost extinct anyway.

Des Moines Leader. The railroads of Nebraska grant to the Nebraska state fair a free rate of \$5 from any part of the state. In view of the fact that the Iowa mileage to Des Moines is not as great as the position of the state, and in view of the fact of the further fact that Iowa is much more thickly settled, the request of the Iowa fair management for a \$1 flat rate is in comparison not unreasonable.

Waterloo Courier. The Dubuque Telegraph is pretty near the whole thing when it comes to a mouthpiece for the free silver party of the state and if the Telegraph has its way the gold democrats of Iowa will be for all time aimless, hopeless wanderers on the face of the earth. They are not even worthy to look like the slaves of the silverites, and, unlike the vilest sinner, they may not return even though they come back in an agony of silver ashes a foot thick. But for all that it is hardly believed that the gold democrats are worrying to any great extent.

Sioux City Tribune. There are not enough republican silver men in Iowa to crowd one polling place, and yet in the meeting of Iowa houses at Des Moines they have had one-third of the seats reserved for the democratic ticket and what shall constitute democratic principles. It should be remembered in this connection that the only "silverite" republican has for keeping his name is that he has a "Kinky" tariff. If he agrees with the body of democrats on the tariff issue then he has no right to quarrel with the body of democrats on the tariff issue, and if he is not in sympathy with the tariff issue, especially for the poorer people, and for saints as well as sinners, will reconcile all opposition to the innovation.

THE IOWA GUARD AT OMAHA.

Proposed Mobilization Scheme Under Consideration. Adjutant General Wright has taken a commensurate interest in accepting the invitation for an encampment of the Iowa National Guard at Council Bluffs during the National Exposition at Omaha next year. Governor Drake has received by a communication concerning not only an encampment of the Iowa guard but a mobilization of the Iowa National Guard and regular army organizations, and General Wright in answering says that it has been considered among the National guard officers that at least a brigade should be encamped in Council Bluffs, under the military code of the National Guard, and that the mobilization of the Iowa National Guard and regular army organizations, and General Wright in answering says that it has been considered among the National guard officers that at least a brigade should be encamped in Council Bluffs, under the military code of the National Guard, and that the mobilization of the Iowa National Guard and regular army organizations, and General Wright in answering says that it has been considered among the National guard officers that at least a brigade should be encamped in Council Bluffs, under the military code of the National Guard, and that the mobilization of 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