

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

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Advertisements: All communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to the Editor. Business letters should be addressed to the Business Manager.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Amount, Total. Lists names of contributors and their respective amounts.

THE BEE ON TRAINS. All railroad newsmen are supplied with enough Bees to accommodate every passenger who wants to read a newspaper.

INSIST ON HAVING THE BEE. Omaha will give the representatives of the live stock exchanges a hearty welcome next year.

Illinois expects to try a special session of the legislature this winter and Governor Tanner and the Chicago newspapers are preparing for an exciting season.

Senator Allison sensibly recognizes the fact that opposition to the annexation of Hawaii comes from men who are just as good Americans as those who clamor loudly for annexation.

Emperor William's speech to the Reichstag is said to have been unfavorably criticized by those present. A few more prosecutions for lese majeste should not surprise any one.

Certain persons have held a meeting behind closed doors and resolved upon forming a new republican party in New York. The original republican party was not organized behind closed doors.

The convening of congress will give Mr. Powderly another opportunity to encounter the social displeasure that declined to confirm his nomination as immigration commissioner last spring.

Berlin university has enough Americans enrolled in its student body to form a good-sized university by themselves. This ought to make Germany bear a little more easily with the new American tariff.

DEFALCATION INEXCUSABLE.

In passing sentence last week upon the former state auditor of Nebraska, who had pleaded guilty to the charge of embezzlement, the trial judge, among other things, said: The people are to be blamed somewhat in their laxness in expecting the salary paid to get men capable of managing the affairs of a great department of state.

This is but another outcropping of the idea that because a public officer does not think himself sufficiently well paid he is justified in betraying his trust and the blame for his defalcation or embezzlement should rest not on his shoulders, but on those of the people whose lawmakers have declined to give him a larger salary.

Under no circumstances can such a hideous doctrine be avowed. In such a theory the man who commits embezzlement as a public officer is to be held less strictly to his responsibility than the man who commits the same crime as a private citizen.

By it the public should expect dishonesty in public office and excuse it where in private employment it would impose the full penalty of the law.

Much as we hear about public officers being underpaid, the assertion that they are driven to thievery and corruption by inadequate salaries is wrong both in premise and conclusion. In the first place it is not true that our public officers are as a rule underpaid.

With few exceptions all the men elected to office get salaries greater than they were accustomed to in private life. In the case of the ex-state auditor in question the promotion was made from the position of court reporter, paying \$1,500 a year, to an office worth \$2,500 a year.

In the case of the defaulting city treasurer of Omaha the officer was receiving a salary of \$6,000 more than he had ever earned in any other capacity and the highest salary paid to any public officer in the state.

In the case of the defaulting state treasurer, while the salary was moderate, he was known to have had the use of over \$500,000 of school money during his full term, which he farmed out at interest and which had netted him at least \$25,000 annually in addition to his salary.

The defalcations from which the people of Nebraska have suffered have therefore had nothing whatever to do with inadequate salaries. But even if our public officers were really poorly paid and they underwent a financial sacrifice in accepting office, what reason or excuse would that afford for jobbery and defalcation?

Every man who accepts public office does so knowing its requirements and its emoluments. He does so knowing that he is to have a public trust reposed in him and that the strictest fidelity and honesty are promised by his official oath.

THE WORLD'S SUPPLY OF MONEY IS ABUNDANT.

For all the legitimate demands of industry and commerce. Another fact clearly shown is that this country, even during the period of depression, was steadily accumulating capital and growing in financial power.

It is making rapid progress in this direction now, promising that at no very remote time it will have attained financial independence and a dominating influence in the monetary and commercial affairs of the world.

A HANDICAP TO TRADE. A member of a leading iron manufacturing company of Philadelphia which bids for foreign contracts recently said that in competing for work and the supply of material in South and Central America his company as well as other manufacturers in the United States are badly handicapped.

England and Germany, he said, had steamship lines to ports in South and Central America, which sailed weekly, and this gave English and German manufacturers a great advantage over the Americans in their endeavors to obtain the trade of those sections.

In order to fill a recent contract for a point in South America this Philadelphia company was obliged to ship the material to England and there have it reshipped to a South American port, thus entailing delay. The manufacturer declared that with equal transportation facilities American manufacturers could compete with the world.

There is no doubt that the greatest need of the country for the extension of its foreign trade is adequate transportation facilities in American hands—steamship lines that would transport the products of factory and farm directly from our ports to the ports of destination.

Especially is this needed for the enlargement of our trade with the countries of South and Central America. It must be apparent to everybody that in having to ship merchandise to England and there have it reshipped to South America, as the Philadelphia manufacturers did, they are placed at a very decided disadvantage.

There is loss of time and it costs more than direct shipment would. Then the shipping of our products in foreign vessels has a tendency to create an unfavorable impression. There is the testimony of South American merchants to this effect and the representatives of the southern countries who have come to the United States within the last few years to study trade conditions have been practically unanimous in declaring that until Americans have their own transportation facilities they cannot expect to successfully compete in the South American markets with European countries that send their goods in their own ships to those markets.

There are some, we know, who attach little importance to this, but it is a practical fact that should not be disregarded. What subject is there for the consideration of congress of greater or more urgent importance than this? American manufacturers are steadily gaining in foreign markets. The superiority of numerous lines of American manufactures is everywhere recognized.

In the products of iron and steel we can meet all competition. But we are handicapped by the lack of transportation facilities and until we have these we cannot advance as rapidly as we should toward the achievement of commercial supremacy.

LOOK-OUT FOR AUTONOMY.

The representative of the Washington Post who recently went to Cuba to investigate the situation there informs that paper that he believes the policy of autonomy will be successful. He does not expect immediate pacification, but he looks for steady progress toward its attainment.

He thinks that when the insurgents at last realize the genuineness of the new dispensation, "witness with their own eyes the working of an actual autonomy, see that the Cubans are at last in control of their political destinies and have it borne in upon them that they, too, may share the blessings of peace and liberty," they will not much longer maintain their attitude of resistance and antagonism.

It would be very agreeable to be able to accept this optimistic view, but unfortunately there does not appear to be any substantial ground for it. It is to be apprehended that the Post's correspondent, when he wrote the above, had not extended his investigations beyond Havana or communicated with anybody except those favorable to the reform policy. He certainly could not have seen the proclamation of Gomez, in which the proposed autonomy was spurned and it was declared that the Cubans are fighting for independence and will accept nothing short of that.

He is perhaps familiar with the opinion of the proposed policy held by the representatives of the Cubans in this country, but he may not attach great importance to this, though it is not to be doubted that these representatives faithfully voice the feeling and purpose of the insurgents. As a matter of fact there has been nothing to justify the belief that any considerable number of the Cubans who are in arms will be induced to accept the proffered autonomy, which their leaders have pronounced a farce and in the genuineness of which it is safe to say none of them have any faith.

The difficulty is that the Cubans have no confidence whatever in Spanish promises or pledges and they know perfectly well that the present reform policy, while the most liberal ever proposed, still leaves in the hands of Spain power to overrule the will of the Cubans whenever it should not be agreeable to the imperial government.

In short, all the conditions seem to be very distinctly against the success of the scheme of autonomy, which judging from the tone of the declarations of some of the Cuban leaders has operated to intensify their hatred of Spain and strengthen their purpose to maintain resistance and antagonism. It is certainly true that at no time have the insurgents been more active than since the Spanish government agreed upon the reform policy.

RECIPROCAL NEGOTIATIONS.

The special commissioner for negotiating reciprocity agreements, Hon. John A. Kasson, is finding plenty of work to do and there is every reason to expect good results from it. The most important negotiation now in progress is with France and the prospect of an agreement is said to be good.

It is understood that the only point of difference between the negotiators on the part of France and the United States relates to the admission into France of live animals under conditions sufficiently favorable to this country. If this shall be adjusted there appears to be nothing in the way of a satisfactory arrangement being effected.

This negotiation is being conducted under the third section of the tariff, which does not require that an agreement be ratified by the senate. It has been reported that negotiations were pending with Germany, but a late Berlin dispatch states that such is not the case.

It is understood, however, that overtures have been made to the German government and it is thought probable that the conclusion of an agreement with France will stimulate the German wingrowing interests to press for a similar arrangement. Italy and Spain, it is believed, may also find it to their interests to come in under the same terms, if it be judged that there is any corresponding advantage for the trade of the United States.

ST. LOUIS REPUBLICAN.

What is known as the "only laugh" is a feature of a religious ritual now going on in Georgia. It is intended for the devil, who naturally gets the laugh every time a winner is made.

Boston Globe: The six pretty girls appointed as church ushers by Rev. Maurice Penfield of Trenton, N. J., took up a collection Sunday that broke the record in their church. There are no files on Rev. Mr. Files of Trenton.

Kansas City Star: The Methodist preacher who declares that the present season is better than all of the good old times and who laments that he would like to go to heaven by way of New York, shows a curious combination of good judgment and doubtful taste.

New York Herald: "He who serves the altar shall live by the altar," said St. Paul, but the Rev. Samuel Lutz, pastor of St. Paul's German Evangelical church, in Westchester, N. J., has found that it is impossible to obey the scriptural injunction on \$11 a month salary—and has resigned.

Chicago Inter Ocean: Some New York clergymen are seeking to abolish Santa Claus on the ground that old gentlemen are a survival of paganism. It is true that they are now living, but there were under the old dispensation many things that have come down to the present time, and that it would be a pity to allow the revival of new things and the obliteration of those that are old.

Chicago Chronicle: The church made a good record for itself during the yellow fever season in New Orleans. Not a clergyman deserted his post, though congregations dwindled and in some cases disappeared altogether. Such a showing is as creditable to the clerics as it is disconcerting to their critics.

Providence Journal: Clergymen often utter a very ridiculous figure when they attempt to discuss politics and especially when they struggle with statistics. One of them in Washington joyfully informed his hearers on Thanksgiving day that since the inauguration of the republican administration the population of the country has increased \$14,000,000,000. This is nearly as much as the gain in national wealth during the entire decade following 1880.

Chicago Post: At last it looks as if the secret of securing the attendance of young men at church has been discovered. A lot of wise old men, aided in some instances by a number of wise elderly women, have discussed the subject at great length and tried many plans, but it remained for a Baptist minister of Trenton, N. J., to solve the problem. He has pointed the prettiest girls in his congregation as ushers, and, as they also take to the collection, the plan has an additional advantage.

Local poor overseers anticipate that demands for public poor relief will this year show a marked falling off from a year ago. That expectation will certainly be met. American workmen now have employment and they will not accept charity so long as they are enabled to earn wages.

Keeping hotel in Seattle must be something like managing a safety deposit vault. One hotel firm last Sunday night received for \$800,000 worth of securities and drafts and thirty-five pounds of gold dust turned in by guests who had arrived on a late steamer from the north.

DOMESTIC IDYLS.

Cincinnati Tribune: "Smithers is positively the most inopportune man I ever saw." "Yes; I never knew him to entertain even an idea."

Chicago Post: "Statisticians say that married men live longer than single men," she suggested. "Of course they do," he replied. "They're tougher, you know, for they're kept in training all the time."

West Union Gazette: "I wish, love," said Mrs. West Union as they sat down to dinner, "that you would remember to remind me to tell you to get some sugar when you go down town, if I don't think of it."

Chicago Tribune: Shuttering Lover-M-m-mildred, is th-th-there any one else that sits-out-stands-b-b-b-b-between-us?" Detroit Mail: Nothing Harold, but the impediment in your speech."

Cincinnati Enquirer: John—So you really think you have some chance of winning her, do you? Henry—Oh, yes; I feel quite encouraged, she has begun to find fault with my looks.

Chicago Record: "Daughter, do you think young Tompkins means business?" "Of course, papa; I have just received his sealed proposal."

Detroit Journal: Mrs. Jones—I wonder what Mr. Jones (cavalry)—Why, I'm here, of course—that is what comes of your being up nights waiting for me.

Philadelphia North American: Gladys—Maude has always been as a martyr, yet now she goes off and marries one. Edith—How do you see the dear boy you will discover at once that she has not gone back on her principles.

Detroit Free Press: Marie—I told papa, Willie dear, that I thought you were just too low for my use. Willie—And what did he say, darling? Marie—He said he feared as much. Now what could he have meant by that, Willie dear?

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "You are about to propose for my daughter?" "And am, sir." "And your proposal duly accompanied by a bond?" "The bond is ready for your endorsement, sir." "Take her, my boy, and never mind the preliminaries."

THE FIRST SNOWFALL.

James Russell Lowell, The snow had begun in the gloaming. And busily all the night. Had been leaving field and highway. With a silence deep and white.

I sat and watched by the window. The snow-drops work of the sky. And the sudden hurries of snow birds. Like brown leaves whirling by.

I thought of a mound in sweet Auburn. Where a little headstone stood. How the flakes were folding it gently. As did robes the babes in the wood.

Up spoke our own little Mabel, Saying: "Father, who makes it snow?" And I told her the good old story. Who cares for us here below.

Again I looked at the snowfall. And thought of the laden sky. That arches heaven's great glory. When that mound was heaped so high.

I remember the gradual patience. That fell from that cloud like snow. Flake by flake, loading and hiding. The scar of our disfigured world.

And again to the child I whispered: "The snow that husheth all. Alone can make it fall." Then, with eyes that saw not, I kissed her. And she kissed back, and did not know. That my kiss was given to her sister. Folded close under deepening snow.

Advertisement for Brownie's Sewing Machine. Features the text 'Look Out... THE FIELD IS FULL OF BRIGANDS.' and 'CUTTING PRICES' seems to be the trick by which they hope to attract the buying public. Includes an illustration of a woman sewing.

S. W. COR. 15TH AND DOUGLAS STS.