

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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THE MAXIMUM RATE DECISION.

The long delayed decision of the Nebraska maximum freight rate cases by the United States supreme court has in the main been anticipated. It has been an open secret for months, if not for years, that the court was to affirm the ruling of Justice Brewer against the state, thus nullifying the act passed by the legislature of 1893.

The effect of the decision is far-reaching. While it does not deprive the state of the right to regulate railroad rates under the constitutional provision which expressly empowers the legislature to enact maximum rate laws, it reduces that power to the mere privilege of suggesting a schedule of charges which the federal courts may allow to stand or may hang up at will.

In practice this means the establishment of a double veto power, one to be exercised by the governor, the other by any federal judge. But while the legislature may override the veto of the executive, the judicial veto arbitrarily overrides both the governor and the legislature.

Under such conditions the calling of a legislature to revise and re-enact the maximum freight rate law of 1893 would be useless since a new law would have to go through the same court process and the attorney general now has the right to move for a dissolution of the injunction by which the existing law is suspended.

THE MONEY ON HAND. The bill appropriating \$50,000,000 for national defense was passed by the house of representatives without a dissenting vote, 311 members going on record in support of the measure.

IS A CRISIS NEAR AT HAND? The events of the last two or three days certainly seem to warrant the opinion very generally expressed that a crisis in the relations of the United States and Spain is near at hand.

Under the maximum freight rate decision we now have laws of intermittent constitutionality. A freight schedule may be constitutional one month, unconstitutional the next month and unconstitutional again the third month, all depending whether it enables the railroads to make profits on inflated capitalization satisfactory to the court.

The organ of the gamblers' gang betes Rates Police Judge Gordon for upholding the law against automatic gambling machines and binding the gamblers over to the district court.

to its interests in Cuba. There has been no outgiving or intimation by the Washington administration to warrant such fear, but it is quite possible that President McKinley has fixed upon a time when, if the insurrection in Cuba is not suppressed or the outlook for its suppression is not improved, he will take steps looking to the ending of the war there.

The friends of a Cincinnati woman certainly displayed bad taste in choosing this time to give prominence to the fact that she and not the late Miss Willard was the founder of the W. C. T. U. While it is probably far from their intention to detract from the fair fame of the late distinguished president of the union, that might seem to be their purpose, and the thought is not pleasing to the many millions who have admired her and given encouragement to her good work for temperance.

Governor Holcomb now sees his mistake in not hiding in the entire issue of Douglas county bonds for the state school fund. Owing to the policy pursued by the state board the chances are good for the state school fund soon to reach the condition again of large sums of idle money, which can be invested in the securities designated by law only by buying county bonds at extravagant premiums from the brokers who have shrewdly gathered them in.

COMMERCIAL PROGRESS. This country has made remarkable commercial progress in the last year and the indications are that the current year will be the greatest in our history for American trade and industry.

When fake war dispatches are triple and quadruple lead in the space and the line displays how much room there is for doubt. Difference in Marksmanship. The chief advantage the position of kingship of Greece possesses over a South Carolina position is the greater accuracy of the southern over the Hellenic marksmanship.

Why Spain Hesitates. Indianaapolis Journal. If the Spanish grandees could behold the statesman from the state of Washington, Hon. James Hamilton Lewis, on those days when he wears his pale pearl pantaloons, his double-breasted, ruby-colored vest and his lustrous green frock coat, they would be jealous instead of indignant.

Why Bothers About Bonds. The bondsmen of the Nebraska state treasurer, who defaulted some time ago, are, according to the courts, not responsible for their own American destiny. They have, therefore, to be a mere matter of form, which people of today observe because they are addicted to clinging to relics of the dark ages.

Modern Artillery. Philadelphia Press. The German artillery has been remodeled and the French have nearly equipped themselves with new guns. The German change cost \$50,000,000. Their gun is three inches and the French three and five-eighths.

frago would be reduced to one year. Another proposition in regard to suffrage is that no one can become a citizen by naturalization unless able to read and write the English language. Under the proposed constitution the house of representatives would be increased in membership from seventy-two to 100, but with a proviso that no municipality should have more than one-fourth of the members.

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ABOUT WAR.

A War Honorably Averted is a Nobler Achievement Than a Battle Won. Let us imagine the news of the destruction of the Maine in the harbor of Havana had been accompanied by clear proof that the catastrophe was caused by a torpedo mine-lay which had been the duty of our government? Would it have been to rush forth into a war with Spain upon the assumption that Spanish officials and with them, as Spanish government were responsible for the calamity? Or would it not rather have been to inquire whether Spanish officials were really responsible, and, if they were, whether the Spanish government were willing or not to make atonement for the acts of its agents?

What men of good sense and of sound moral instincts would wish to see is not a war of excitement, but a war of reason and respectability, with a dignity as if war were being waged by the instrumentality of a high school or a football match.

That war has in the history of mankind sometimes served good purposes in forming a nation, or in representing, in enforcing justice, in removing obstructions to the spread of civilization, will hardly be denied by anybody. How much of such work is still being done by the instrumentality of war may still be required to that end, it is needless to discuss here.

High Civilizations from an Independent Democratic Newspaper. The year between March 4, 1897, and March 4, 1898, reveals to us McKinley as a patriotic American, a cautious but firm executive, a conciliator, but self-respecting politician, his relations with congress, as pronounced but unfraternal republican in his relations with his party, a consistent protectionist in his economic convictions, a conservative in his political representation, a currency reform and an official who, knowing war as a soldier and loving peace as a citizen, cultivates the things which make for the general increase and transportation of the general public, and as long as they can keep safely within the limit of solvency, neither the people nor the courts will charge him with an increase in taxation, or with such a sound financial basis, through refunding and reorganization operations, that a reciprocity will be a very rare thing and the courts will thus be relieved of one class of work that, in recent years, has taken up a good deal of their time.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. General W. S. Rosecrans, who has been ill at his ranch home near Redondo, Cal., is in a precarious condition, and his death may occur at any time.

His excellency, Mirza Mahmood Khan, the shah's ambassador at Constantinople, derives his only income from a tax on the 15,000 Persian subjects in the Turkish capital.

An unusual number of men are employed at the Pullman shops, but never before were so many of our great cities so completely empty. The workmen find the go-as-you-please tenements much cheaper as well as more like homes of their own.

Carl Harenbeck, the animal trainer and owner who was in Chicago during the World's fair, declares that the best animal for Klonk conditions and climate is the double-humped Siberian camel. They weigh 1,500 pounds and can carry 500 pounds.

REDUCED INTEREST RATES.

Abundance of Money Forces a Substantial Reduction. Kansas City Star. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad company has made a new \$100,000,000 4 per cent loan, to replace bonds now outstanding which bear 6 and 7 per cent and to provide means for extensions and improvements as they may be needed. By this transaction the company will save annual interest charges amounting to about one-half million dollars. In other words, the amount of earnings distributed to bondholders will be one-half million dollars less than has been distributed heretofore.

The incident is of interest to the public for a number of reasons. It is one of the evidences of the enormous reduction in interest rates that has occurred in the past year. Such a loan could hardly have been made at any time prior to last July, but in view of the high grade securities now obtainable at 3 and 4 and 5 per cent all they can expect now from investments such as formerly paid 4, 5, 6 and in some cases 7 per cent. Consequently, great corporations that have loans coming due are finding no difficulty at all in substituting low rate interest bonds for their old ones.

ONE YEAR OF MCKINLEY. High Civilizations from an Independent Democratic Newspaper. The year between March 4, 1897, and March 4, 1898, reveals to us McKinley as a patriotic American, a cautious but firm executive, a conciliator, but self-respecting politician, his relations with congress, as pronounced but unfraternal republican in his relations with his party, a consistent protectionist in his economic convictions, a conservative in his political representation, a currency reform and an official who, knowing war as a soldier and loving peace as a citizen, cultivates the things which make for the general increase and transportation of the general public, and as long as they can keep safely within the limit of solvency, neither the people nor the courts will charge him with an increase in taxation, or with such a sound financial basis, through refunding and reorganization operations, that a reciprocity will be a very rare thing and the courts will thus be relieved of one class of work that, in recent years, has taken up a good deal of their time.

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SUGAR PRODUCTION.

The Subject Discussed from the Standpoint of the Farmer. Secretary James Wilson in the Forum. Efforts are being made in the United States to extend the production of sugar-producing plants by ascertaining through scientific experiments, and by private enterprise, under the direction of the federal and state governments—where such plans will flourish best, to the end that we may as a nation become independent of other countries in this regard. * * * and distribute among our own people the immense sum of money that is now sent abroad to pay for sweetening material.

The writer grew beet by the acre for stock feed from 1896 by the Iowa Agricultural college, and found that it was profitable for that purpose alone. All domestic animals are benefited by daily rations of sugar in winter when they have no access to pasture; and the fattening animal alike finds them grateful.

Chicago Record: "Why is it we feel this March weather more than real winter weather?" "Because we hang around the shop windows looking at the spring styles and straw hats."

Harper's Bazar: She-I like your impudence. I haven't quite reached the point where I fit into our farm system. He-You would be a bargain on any count.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "I notice the exclusive people of New York amuse themselves in the winter by looking at the window displays of the department stores." "Yes, and their similar forefathers did the same thing."

Bangor News: Mrs. Quiverful-Do you know, dear, that I think the baby seems to be coming. Mr. Quiverful (sighing)-I don't know about that, but I know she often cries in pain.

Chicago Tribune: Acquaintance-Well, the winter is about on its legs; less, professor. The Professor-Well-maybe. But it has nearly three weeks to run.

Washington Star: "Do you dislike investigations?" "Inquired the politician's friend." "Yes," was the thoughtful reply. "I must say I do. It is into our hands to take up a great deal of a man's time."

Somerville Journal: The bible doesn't say so, but probably Eve asked Adam: "Are my fig leaves on straight?"

Jewellers Weekly: Marie-Why in the world are wedding rings so severely plain? Max-Bring them up within reach at the end of a long courtship.

HER FROWN. Charles J. Hayne in Pack. There is magic in the music when the fountain of liquid waves of laughter ripple down into liquid waves of deeper rapture. In their dreaming moments of culture, but I cherish most her features archly gathered in a frown.

In the masquerade of faces desolation wears a smile. While the frown in demeanor is the crown. But know that in revealing. Every transient thought and feeling she is nearest when her forehead sweetly glows to shadow a frown. Like the glint upon the waving fields of grain. As the glowing embers mingle with the ashes on the ingle. Glad to be among the thoughts which gravely wait upon her. All the shifting lights and shadows which her April eyes assume. Wear a charm of which this aspect is the crown. And if she could guess the ardor of my thoughts as I regard her. How I wonder would her features coldly gather in a frown!

The Swell thing. Is a correct "top coat." There are several shades of grades of covert cloth that we can show you—at several prices. Corresponding to the quality of the goods it is quite the thing and is really a handsome garment with its broad lap seams. But we have a full assortment of spring overcoats in other materials—in solid colors and mixed goods—beautifully tailored and lined with serge—silk or satin according as you may choose or you pursue permit. Our spring overcoats are worth looking over if you have a minute's leisure—but you ought not to overlook them.

B & K BROWNING & CO. S. W. Cor. 15th and Douglas Sts.