

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

Published every morning. Terms of subscription: Daily (without Sunday) one year, \$5.00; Daily (with Sunday) one year, \$6.00; Three months, \$1.50; Six months, \$3.00; Single copy, one cent.

FRIENDLY ASSURANCES.

The Spanish minister to the United States was presented to President McKinley yesterday and there was an exchange of friendly assurances couched in the most cordial terms.

There can be no mistake in regard to the significance of these formal utterances. The American people will not hesitate to believe that what was said by President McKinley was meant to be an unequivocal expression of his earnest desire for the maintenance of friendly relations with Spain.

There is no doubt that the Sagasta government earnestly desires to avoid war with the United States and that it is prepared to make every concession that it honorably can to maintain friendly relations, but there is danger that the Spanish people themselves will force it into a position that will provoke hostilities.

Meanwhile, despite friendly assurances, the preparations of the two nations for possible war will go on and in this there is perhaps the best guaranty for the maintenance of peace.

THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN PATENTS.

While the periodic assaults made upon the American system of patents have not yet roused any formidable opposition to the maintenance of the system, they have doubtless excited many people to question in their minds whether the public benefits really outweigh the disadvantages.

That one justification of the patent laws lies in the protection of inventors to assure them control of that which has been produced by the exercise of their own inventive genius is obvious. But Mr. Prindle points out that the system is of still greater benefit to the public.

With more than 900,000 telephones in use in this country it cannot be denied that the Americans have afforded themselves the facilities for talking. The use of the mails is general, but it is not the only way gossip is carried about.

Notwithstanding the dispensary system in South Carolina, the prohibition party of that state is to hold a state convention the coming week and join with others in making a complete rout of the dispensary system.

The chances are that the democrats of New York and Pennsylvania will support state tickets this year on platforms that neither reaffirm the Chicago platform nor contain any endorsement of the Jones-Towne-Butler office brokerage combination.

A Georgia court has decided that a contract of marriage made on Sunday is valid and a Montana court has decided that it is illegal to collect a fee in that state for issuing a marriage license.

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So also the Transmississippi Exposition are assured of a valuable lesson in the advancement made in more recent years in the development of American architecture.

To what extent are insurance companies proper subjects of state regulation? The almost constant friction between insurance men and the officers of certain western states who insist upon thorough inspection as a prerequisite to doing business in these states is only an incident of the contest being waged in legislatures and courts which is to determine whether insurance is a private business or whether, like banking and railway transportation, it partakes of a public nature that imposes on it special obligations to the public.

What war means. A London paper, discussing a possible war between the United States and Spain from the financial point of view, concedes the eventual success of this country, but says if the contest were prolonged it would be at heavy cost to the United States and implies that there would be little if any compensation.

The disinterested opinion of the London paper is worthy of attention. Congress has already appropriated \$50,000,000 for preparation. A war lasting six months would require an expenditure of several times that amount and there can be no reasonable doubt that a conflict between the United States and Spain would last at least six months and probably much longer.

PURIFY ALL OUTDOOR SPORTS. Provision for a high court for the trial of offending players of professional baseball is a step too long delayed by those who have assumed control of the national game.

Sound Financial Condition. If anything were necessary to demonstrate the absolute soundness of the American financial conditions it would be found in the fact that nearly, if not quite, \$6,000,000 of gold will come into this country from Europe during the month of March.

NEBRASKA'S PATRIOTIC SUPPORT. Congressman Mercer Assures the President of His State's Loyalty. "Speech of Mr. Mercer," Mr. Speaker, "God reigns, and the government at Washington still lives," a patriotic utterance of the late President Garfield, will be taken up by the American people in a chorus from sea to sea when the deliberations of this memorable day become public property.

IMPROVING AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE. The new charter of the city of New York contains provision for an art commission consisting of the mayor, the president of the Metropolitan museum, the president of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts, the president of the public library, and six persons nominated by the Fine Arts federation.

A PAN-AMERICAN BANK. One of the most essential requirements for the development of our trade with the countries of South and Central America is better facilities for international exchange.

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Three or four scientists have discovered what they believe to be yellow fever germs. If they will compare notes and show that the germs are identical nothing more will be needed to establish the genuineness of the several discoveries.

Concerning Shimmers. Out went they are still trying to keep the free silver idea bright. This is all right, only the right way of accomplishing best results is to push it off.

Jersey's Court Defenders. Two New Jersey pensioners have offered to contribute their pensions to help build war ships. But New Jersey is safe from attack, not being besieged by several army corps of hostile mosquitoes.

Cut Rates for the Poor. The most providential thing which could have occurred at this time for the returning Klondikers is the cut rate war from Seattle eastward. And even that may not prevent the loss of fortune from counting the ties between here and the setting sun.

Evil Effect of "Yellow" Fever. Lucky in his "England in the Eighteenth Century" says: "Most modern wars may be ultimately traced to national antipathies which have been largely created by newspaper invectives and by the gross partiality of newspaper representations."

Ohio Figuring on Sugar. It is estimated that Ohio pays out \$12,000,000 annually for sugar—a very large part of which amount goes to foreign lands. It is claimed that twenty beet sugar factories costing \$50,000 each would supply the saccharine needs of the state.

Sharp Thrust at Pale Faces. "Many years ago says the bishop, who is testifying to the honesty of the red Indian in holding a service to an Indian village camp. My things were scattered about in a lodge and when I was going out I asked the chief if it was safe to leave them there since I was to the village to hold a service. 'Yes,' he said, 'perfectly safe. There is not a white man within a hundred miles!'"

Kaiser William's Whims. Not content with excluding his dominions from the great American pig, next the innocent and unimpeachable American steer, and following these a lot of other American live and dead stock of all sorts, the Kaiser is now bent upon excluding the German schools to him and forcing him to seek his technical instruction elsewhere.

Prison methods are not what they once were, thanks to the earnest students of this branch of the social question. In one of the Iowa penitentiaries the prisoners are encouraged to have flowers in the cells and to care for growing plants, and in the Michigan penitentiary birds in cages are given the prisoners so that they may learn lessons of patience and cheerfulness from the feathered pets.

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DEWEY ADMITS SOME THINGS. Much Reason for Popular Antipathy to Railroad Management. Chauncey M. Dewey has laid before a section of the American public his views on railroad management.

But in stating this peculiarly disinterested opinion of Great Britain and her capitalists and risks Dr. Dewey calmly ignores the fact that the old railroad promoters worked all sorts of games and made all sorts of iridescent promises in order to get public aid in one form or another.

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Uncle Sam Cannon's fifty million shot was heard round the world. Adolph Siegert is now working at his trade in Jalta. He is making sausages for his associates.

Some of the rural congressmen seem to think it takes no more training to plow the main than to plow a corn field. James Longstreet, Jr., who will follow in the footsteps of his father, has been tendered his services to the governor of Georgia.

Italy forgot to the front of France in the recent dealing of a cabinet was turned in that country last year one man was killed. St. Louis drug manufacturers have sent to Washington a petition signed by 10,000 persons in favor of a law prohibiting drug adulteration.

Mark Twain's great joke in paying off all his creditors is one that will never grow stale no matter how many times it is repeated by debators. Isaac Potter's phantasm army of wheelmen ought to be consulted before the Maine inquiry closes. They could furnish points on blowing up headlines.

One of the headlines of a New York paper's report of a steamship blow-out was turned upside down. It represented the condition of the participants, doubtless. Buffalo Bill has sent to Cuba for a company of insurgents for the Wild West show. There is no likelihood that he will try to hire a bull-ring in Madrid to exhibit them.

A Chicago girl is advertising for a slipper she lost while returning from a party. The receipt for a pair of slippers might furnish a clew if properly investigated. Late news from Australia in regard to the hot weather leaves the impression that the entrance to the infernal regions may yet be found somewhere on that island continent.

The young fellow who went out west and made \$200,000 by a corner in onions, is described by a writer in one of the magazines as a man who had a "keen scent for the possibilities of the markets." Inez Carusi, one of the greatest of harpists, lost a thumb in a street car mix-up in New York, and wants \$75,000 damage from the company. If her thumb is worth that sum, how much is Inez worth?

When the secretary of the national democratic committee went to Alaska in search of gold he took passage from Seattle on the good ship Cleveland, and now his friends are firmly convinced that he has deserted the white metal for which he professed so much political adoration.

Brooklyn Life: Admirer (time 2:30 a. m.)—Has your father any objection to my paying you visits, Miss Maud? Miss Maud—Oh, no—but—er—I think that he'd rather you visit my mother.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

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Cleveland Leader: Mr. Perkley—If you could only learn to cook as my first wife did! Mrs. Perkley—If you were as smart as my dear first husband you'd be rich enough to hire the best cook in the land.

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Everything that concerns a man, in the way of dress, is here that is, everything but shoes. The superiority of the clothing we make is due to the fact that nothing that we do is a matter of indifference to us. We take as much pains with a low priced garment as with the higher priced when it comes to a matter of cut and fit.

We undertake to see that you are fitted. And we are always ready to make any alterations that you may want.

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