

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

B. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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REUSE AND PROHIBITION.

It is about as difficult to revive dead issues as it is to resurrect political corpses. Prohibition, in Nebraska, has been a dead issue nearly ten years and the attempt to make the prohibition ghost stalk about in order to save the popocratic cause from the impending landslide affords striking proof of the desperate straits in which the sham reformers find themselves on the eve of election.

The decision rendered by the supreme court back in 1889 as to the constitutionality of the prohibition amendment ordered for submission to popular vote is trumped up as a horrible delinquency on the part of Judge Reese and as a proof that he was a prohibitionist. Inasmuch as every member of the supreme court, including Judges Maxwell and Cobb, agreed with Judge Reese, and the opinion on the appeal attacking the amendment was written by Maxwell, whom the popocrats elected to congress only three years ago, it would seem that the indictment of Judge Reese is very far-fetched indeed. But suppose Judge Reese actually had been as pronounced in favor of prohibition as were Silas A. Holcomb, Bryan and Poynter at that time, how would that fact disqualify him for the supreme judgeship in the year 1909? How could prohibition ever come up as a living issue before the supreme court unless the legislature should enact prohibition laws by and with the approval of the governor, or over his veto?

Manifestly this prohibition scarecrow has been fabricated expressly for the purpose of prejudicing the foreign-born voters, who have an inherent aversion to prohibition, against Judge Reese, by making them believe that he is a rank prohibitionist. We apprehend, however, that the average foreign-born voter is neither so ignorant nor gullible as to allow himself to be humbugged by such transparent imposture. The great majority of citizens of foreign birth are as intelligent as any other class of citizens and when they come to choosing between Holcomb and Reese they will decide who of the two has proved himself the more worthy and faithful in the discharge of an official trust.

A CAMPAIGN FOR OMAHA

Omaha must consider and dispose of several burning questions before its population can touch the 200,000 peg-to-wit.

This city must have railroad rates and train service into northwest Iowa, South Dakota, Wyoming and all tributary territory as low or lower and as direct and prompt as the facilities accorded to any other distributing center.

This city must make it possible for manufacturers to secure, the year round, fuel or power at a cost as low as prices enjoyed by our commercial rivals.

This city must encourage every effort to secure good roads and tramways leading to its suburbs and the villages and towns within a radius of fifty miles.

This city must not permit the project for a giant canal power plant to be delayed. Cheap power alone would make Omaha one of the greatest manufacturing cities west of Chicago.

This city must not fail to appreciate the importance of the federal census and the bearing it will have upon our future growth. Every possible aid should be extended to the enumerators.

This city must pay heed to the important matter of local taxation. A low tax rate is a standing invitation to investors.

The election will soon be a thing of the past and then our citizens can take up the campaign for Omaha and fight it out on that line if it takes all winter.

THE SUNDAY BEE.

The coming issue of The Bee Sunday will be the best paper printed in this section of the west.

For news it will be unsurpassed, with special cable letters dealing with the South African situation and its effect upon European nations, and a domestic telegraphic service covering all the uppermost topics of the time. In the local field The Bee's news is most comprehensive, accurate and readable.

The Illustrated Bee presents pictorial and literary features to please all tastes.

The frontispiece is a handsome portrait of the Rt. Rev. George Worthington, bishop of Nebraska, about to retire from active church work by calling to his assistance the bishop-elect, J. J. St. John, in a grand ceremony this week.

The trouble between the Briton and the Boer gives occasion for an article upon the British recruits, with half-tone engravings of typical examples of British soldiers. Among these are the South Australian cavalry, the Highland mounted infantry and the famous Jacob horse regiment.

The Iowa State School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs is the subject of an interesting article, set forth with illustrations of the buildings and grounds and the portrait of the superintendent. The people of Iowa, and especially of Council Bluffs, are justly proud of this institution.

The foot ball season comes in for a number of pictures to delight foot ball enthusiasts. A group photograph of the Omaha High school team is accurately reproduced. The Nebraska State university team is shown by snap shots at practice plays and the team's new coach is introduced by his portrait.

Among the miscellaneous subjects are the portrait of General Giv V. Henry, just detailed as commander of the Department of the Missouri, with headquarters at Omaha; a picture of Miss Silence Dales, a talented young violinist of Lincoln; the parish house of St. Agnes' church at South Omaha, nearing completion, and another portrait of an Omaha debutante.

Carpenter's letter this week deals with American farming in the tropics, with characteristic photographs taken by Mr. Carpenter during his recent trip. The fashion pictures show the latest in seasonable garments and novelties for woman's wear.

In addition to all this, the usual Sunday departments devoted to social, musical, dramatic, fraternal and athletic

events will give readers the best and the latest in all these fields.

Read The Sunday Bee. Insist upon having it from your newsboy or news-dealer.

AMERICA KEEPS THE CUP.

America will keep the cup which represents the supremacy of its yacht-builders and yachsmen until some more successful challenger than Shamrock puts in an appearance.

The races between Columbia and Shamrock have each and every one of them shown the unmistakable superiority of the American vessel, which has come out victorious in each successive trial. By winning three straight races Columbia has sustained the American prestige without falling behind any of its predecessors. The British challenger must yield the palm with the full knowledge that he has been beaten in a fair race in which he was accorded every privilege demanded by true sportsman's etiquette.

That satisfaction in the result will be general throughout this country goes without saying, although that result is indeed. But suppose Judge Reese actually had been as pronounced in favor of prohibition as were Silas A. Holcomb, Bryan and Poynter at that time, how would that fact disqualify him for the supreme judgeship in the year 1909? How could prohibition ever come up as a living issue before the supreme court unless the legislature should enact prohibition laws by and with the approval of the governor, or over his veto?

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The new Omaha, Council Bluffs & Manawa motor line will make use of the tracks of the Omaha Street Railway company on Sixteenth and Fifteenth streets for a loop between Leost and Howard streets. The old bridge line has long enjoyed the use of tracks on Fourteenth and Twelfth streets, advertising it to the traffic of this city. Neither company will do local business. It is interesting to note that the Omaha company is acting in an impartial manner as between rival bridge companies bidding for the traffic of this city, there being no good reason to believe the local company is interested in the new enterprise. The new road may not be a great necessity to Omaha, yet its projectors are spending a great deal of money in this vicinity and its operation can have none other than beneficial effect upon the street car service. The ultimate plans of the company not being disclosed, it is difficult to predict the outcome of the venture.

A still, small railroad voice pipes up the tale of arbitrate in reference to the squabble between the Burlington road and the boycotting shippers of Kansas City. It is proposed that Omaha name an arbiter, the railroad one and Kansas City a third one. In our opinion it is not the province of Omaha to take the initiative in a movement for arbitration in this case, and this city could expect to figure in the arbitration only upon invitation of the contestants.

To a man up a tree it would seem that Omaha has not yet won a place in the fight, which can be settled at any time to our injury if the contestants should agree upon a compromise. Omaha has done a whole lot of talking about the matter, but has not made itself felt to any great extent. The Burlington road is entitled to Omaha's active support in this contest, but there seems to be no one competent to lead the fight.

Having been cornered and forced to fish or cut bait, Candidate William Neville finally comes out and admits that he himself and not his brother, James, wrote the letter to the Nebraska Independent advocating the retention of the Philippines. He seeks to explain by saying that in so doing he did not commit himself to a colonial policy and tries to establish consistency between his declaration last December and his rampant anti-expansion speeches during the present campaign. Judge Neville confesses to everything with which he is charged. The question is simply whether the people of the Sixth district want to be represented in congress by a man who must be confronted with his own handwriting before he will admit the sentiments he has publicly expressed and who changes his mind every time the wind shifts.

Not to mince matters, it may be asserted as a positive fact, susceptible of proof, that George Shields does not possess legal ability to a degree fitting him for a place on the district bench. No public prosecutor in recent times has made as many stupid blunders in the trials of criminals as has Shields. In other words, if Shields hasn't got sense enough to be an efficient prosecutor how much less is he fitted for a place on the district bench?

President Andrade of Venezuela has concluded to get out of office and take a vacation in some foreign country. It is noteworthy that rulers of South American republics generally manage to accumulate enough in a term of office to enable them to live in luxury the remainder of their lives. In talking the public treasury they can give even popocratic officials some pointers.

Fire insurance managers say that in seasons of business depression the moral hazard of risks is far greater than in eras of prosperity. During hard times insurance rates go up with a thump. During prosperous times, the risks being reduced, let us have the fullest possible benefits of the unexpunged prosperity which abounds.

"Burgoo," the dish used to bring the enthusiasm of Kentucky democracy up to the required pitch, is a sort of soup made from beef, highly seasoned with pepper, to which a liberal quantity of whisky has been added. Given a sufficient quantity of "burgoo" a Kentucky democrat can be made desperate enough to yell for Bryan or any one who may come along.

The first day's registration indicates the woods are full of republicans in these parts. The very atmosphere breathes them. There is not one single sound reason why a man should vote

the fusion ticket from a sense of principle, for the confusionists have abandoned party principles in the stampede for office.

The silver republican party appears to have suffered a bad case of contraction if local registration returns are the criterion. There are not enough of them to hold all the offices that they have laid claim to as a part of the fusion spoils in case of the success of the tripartite combination.

Country Growing Richer.

The land is far richer than it was a year ago. We are growing richer all the time. People are living better. This is shown by an increase of \$2,000,000 worth of imports of merchandise during September, as compared with September a year ago. At the same time our own manufacturers sold more goods than ever at home.

Tenon Versus Saxon.

It will be noticed in the dispatches that the Boer army appears to be liberally supplied with German gunners and German officers. This will be calculated to not only harass the British advance, but it may have the effect of putting a saw edge on the entente cordate between the British empire and her grandson, the German emperor.

Theft of the Diamond Fields.

England took the Kimberley fields from the Orange Free State by one of the worst tricks in all the tangled history of British diplomacy. It would be poetic justice if the Boers could capture Kimberley now and make the mines pay a rich ransom. The great DeBeers company is a semi-political institution, with Cecil Rhodes at its head. He is the great marplot of South Africa.

Not in that Class.

Lord Bacon wisely said: "Judges ought to be more learned than witty, more reverent than plausible and more advised than confident." In other words, they should be confident and proper in their decisions. Lord Rent Holcomb should quote that in every speech. Any president of a mutual fire insurance company, running for a membership of the supreme court, should ponder this wisdom.

Trusts Closing the Plants.

The complaints of the leather men at Woburn because of the action of the trusts in closing down certain factories and shops have attracted public notice, but months ago comment was made in these columns on a fact that quite a number of manufacturing establishments were being closed every month in Massachusetts and that the total number of persons thrown out of employment must be far larger than the public had come to understand. Most of the shutdowns were in places much smaller than Woburn—in little, almost unpopulated communities, whence news rarely gets to metropolitan journals. In such cases the cessation of work implies a blow to the whole community.

Permanent Advertising.

A high authority makes the wise suggestion that "advertising should be planned on the presumption that it is going to be permanent." In other words, it should be considered as a distinctive and systematic part of the merchant's business. Sporadic trade announcements cannot be continuously beneficial. It is true that they often bring about a spurt of sales; but when they have run their brief course they and the public are left as they were. These are the conditions of business announcements in a newspaper which, because of its reliability and excellence, has become popular and influential with the public in general will produce constant and satisfactory financial returns.

Summing Up the Situation.

The president's remark at the iron foundries in Milwaukee that "employer is now looking for the laborer and not the laborer for the employer" sums up the industrial situation tersely and truthfully. The democratic conditions of 1893-7 have gone out and the republican conditions have come in. It is the mill owners and the great employers in general who are looking for the laborer. Everybody who wants work can get it. Many workers have more work than they can attend to. Contracts in the iron and steel industries have been canceled in many places in the past three months, according to reports, because of the inability of employers to find labor. These are the conditions which are going to make the republican party sweep the country in 1909.

NATURAL DEFENSES OF THE BOERS.

Wherever the Transvaal frontier touches British territory on the south nature has raised a barrier difficult to cross. The Boers thus have a signal advantage in position for the conduct of a defensive campaign. The plateau on which their big farms and gold mines are situated rises steeply above the sea and slopes quite abruptly to the coast plain. The mountains rising from this low plain have given to a part of Natal and adjoining districts in Cape Colony the name of "the Switzerland of South Africa," though their tops scarcely reach the summit of the plateau. Through defiles among these mountains and up the slope of the plateau front rise the two or three roads by which the lofty plains are reached. The historic defents the Boers have inflicted upon the British are owing to the fact that in every case when the British were trying to pass these gateways and reach the top of the Transvaal plateau.

We hear of thousands of Kruger's citizen soldiers now grouped around the narrow outlet from the plateau to the plain between the Transvaal and Natal, where on a memorable day the Boers lay behind nearly every boulevard along the narrow road and poured a murderous fire into the long, straggling line of British soldiers who vainly tried to reach the summit. A little further west is Van Reenen's Pass, where thousands of Orange Free State burghers are now massed. It is the gateway between that republic and Natal, and before the railroad was built through the slope, ox wagons carried about 50,000 tons of freight a year up and down the pass.

It is reported that in event of war the British hope, through Portugal's friendliness, to advance also from the east along the line of the railway to the plateau, but here again the Transvaal frontier is a natural fortification. The plateau summit is reached only after a toilsome ascent of the narrow defile of Komati Poort, and it would be no easy matter to reach the top in the face of a determined Boer resistance.

Strongly marked topographic features will thus direct the opening moves in this game of war if it is to be played. The plan of both the Boer republics is to command the passes in the southeast that give access to the high plateau and to deny the railroads in the southwest and west that would facilitate the arrival of troops from the south or volunteers from Rhodesia in the north. This is the reason why Boer forces are also concentrated at Boshof, near the junction of the railway and the coast of Mafeking, where Jameson's raiders crossed the border on their futile raid into the Transvaal.

Distributing Honors.

Win or lose, it seems to be the fashion the world over to give naval officers something that will indicate the position in which they are held by their country. In the United States they get swords; in Spain they give them the ax.

A PATHETIC WAR.

Struggle of "Right Against Greed, of the Few with the Many."

No mind open to generous impulses and emotions can consider untouched the pathetic nature of the war now beginning in South Africa. It is something more than a struggle of the weak against the strong, of right against greed, of the few with the many.

All of these elements of tragedy are present, but they do not tell the whole story. That must be found in the history and characteristics of the Boers, their surroundings, their faith and their obvious doom.

The Dutch part of South Africa is a lonely land. The rains are scanty and the water needed for flocks and herds is scarce. Great areas must be used to sustain the live stock of a farm. Grain and other crops are grown with difficulty. So it happens that the little nations in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State are spread over a very large territory. The Boers are few and their homes are scattered far and wide.

When the whole adult male population is summoned to meet the professional fighting men of England and make a desperate struggle against overwhelming numbers, only the women and children, with the very old men and a few who are sick and crippled, are left at home to keep up the life of the man. They have to tend the flocks and herds, maintain the households sprinkled through the wide plains and guard against pillage and possible massacre by the black population, which far outnumber the whites in all parts of South Africa.

Imagine the position of these families of humble country folk, left without the natural protectors and masters of the farms. Wives know that they have none to look to for help except their little boys, their trusty dogs and their cats. What ever happens, the country is stripped of its strong men. They are on the frontier, singing the psalms which comforted their fathers in the desperate loneliness and peril of the days when Dutch South Africa was won from savage beasts and more savage men. They stand as a hind little line of defenders of their native land against the armies of a mighty empire. They are to do battle against the murderous dum-dum bullets and Lydite shrapnel shells of the richest and largest army that the world ever saw.

In such a situation the faith of the Boers in the God they worship becomes extremely touching. The men in the camps and the women and children in the scattered farm houses are relying on the favor of heaven for the success of the publication and of the enemy's forces. No people equally calm and sensible would ever have found courage for such a terribly one-sided war if they had been less sincere and simple-minded in their faith.

If these conditions in South Africa leave anything wanting to make a complete picture of one of the most pathetic wars in all history we do not know what it is. A brave, devoted and honest people, only a few thousand in all, stand at bay in the interior of South Africa. They are cut off from the sea and from outside help. They have staked their whole hope of preserving their independence upon their self-devotion and their faith in God. The good wishes of the world are out to them, but the hard lessons of the past teach that they must stand on their own feet and defend themselves against the tremendous superiority of their foe in numbers and munitions of war.

One of the darkest and saddest tragedies in the long story of our race has begun.

POLITICAL DRIFT.

Colored republicans of New Jersey profess to be dissatisfied with national affairs. More than 85 per cent of the republicans of New York county did not vote at the September primaries.

In Massachusetts the democratic party swallowed the populists. In the west the populists repudiated the democrats.

New York papers talk very seriously about election frauds in Philadelphia. This recalls the pertinent remark of the poet to the kettie.

Mrs. John R. McLean is aiding the canvass for a candidate for governor of Ohio by traveling over the state in a private car with a party of handsome young women.

Burgoo and oratory are flowing copiously at Kentucky barbecues. The former is more impressive than the latter and furnishes inspiration for knockout arguments usually omitted from the bills.

General J. B. Weaver is cavorting around Iowa talking loud and long for White and black. The money he has made in 1908 is no longer the burden of his tale of woe. Weaver weeps copiously for the Filipinos.

The term of the present governor of Florida expires in January, 1901, and of the four candidates now named to succeed him not one, it is said, is an out-and-out silver democrat, in a state overwhelmingly committed to silver. The salary of the governor of Florida is \$2,500 a year.

The populists of Pennsylvania have received sufficiently to put in nomination a state ticket with Justice Watkins of Tioga for treasurer. Tioga is one of the northern tier counties of Pennsylvania on the New York state line and is overwhelmingly republican, though it includes a considerable number of disaffected voters.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Otmar Mergenthaler, the inventor of the Linotype, who has been in poor health for some time, is