

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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Subscribed and sworn before this 1st day of January, A. D. 1900.

M. L. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

Britain may yet be driven to the desperate resort of firing some of Alfred Austin's verse at the Boers.

Will the three harpessed secretaries come to the feast, with the defunct U. S. S. acting as toastmaster?

Retrenchment must be the watchword for the new school board.

The Jacksonians are promised the greatest jamboree tonight that has ever been seen in these parts.

From the looks of things the outland secured possession of the meeting which was intended to give the Edmisten boom for the supreme court clerkship a boost.

The popocratic orchestra leader evidently learned no new music during his stay in Texas.

With all the litigation which the Pacific Express company furnishes the courts in this county the corporation ought to be willing to keep its headquarters here and contribute to the tax receipts.

Out of 441 members in both houses of congress 320 are lawyers, which goes to show why we have so much law-making for the benefit of corporations and other clients who can afford to pay handsome retainers for congressional favors.

The condition of the Filipino government is indeed deplorable.

Puerto Rico comes up like a poor relation asking a loan the first thing.

Oom Paul is achieving as great a reputation for botching up British troops as Hobson did by his efforts toward bottling up the Spanish sailors in Santiago harbor.

The teachers in the Omaha public schools are fluttering over a rumor that the new Board of Education proposes to abrogate the permanent tenure rule adopted by the last board.

Robert E. Lee Herdman has managed to get the democratic state committee to endorse him for the position of clerk of the supreme court.

It is reported from New York that Frank J. Gould is beginning to put his money in real estate for investment.

Hon. Cate Wells, the Demosthenes of the Iowa democracy, has delivered himself of the opinion that Nebraskaans are the best representatives of Jeffersonian democracy in the United States.

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PAYING A PREMIUM ON DESERTION.

For thirty years every succeeding American congress has stultified itself and disgraced the nation by offering high premiums to deserters from the army.

The present congress is in a fair way to outdo all previous congresses in that respect.

Although the session has scarcely opened, the calendars in both houses are already loaded down with bills removing the charge of desertion from men whose names are on the roll of dishonor of the union armies.

It is a matter of history that more than 10,000 of the men who enlisted for the war between 1861 and 1865 and for the most part received bounties for what should have been a patriotic duty deserted the flag they had sworn to uphold.

Thousands of these cowardly traitors skulked away from the battlefields and thousands never came within gunshot of the enemy, but made their way across the Canadian border.

Desertion from the army is a high crime in every civilized nation, punishable with death in times of war and long imprisonment at hard labor in times of peace.

Deserters who received no greater punishment than dishonorable mention in the records of the war office should be satisfied, but congress has persistently imposed not only by removing the charge of desertion but also by placing them in position to draw pensions for impeding the life of the nation.

Not only do these restored deserters draw pensions from the time their names are restored to the roll, but they draw back pensions for all the years between the close of the war and the time they are put on the pension list.

Thus millions of dollars have been paid as premiums on desertion which should justly have gone to brave and loyal veterans and their families or else should have been left in the pockets of the people.

Why any man who has for thirty years neglected or been unable to get his record of desertion straightened out should be entitled to any consideration at the hands of congress and why the valuable time of the national legislature should be taken up with the consideration of bills for the benefit of army deserters passes comprehension.

No parliamentary body of any other country would stultify itself by doing such a thing.

Senator Aldrich was entirely correct in saying that the advocates of the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1 are not bimetallists.

"Masquerading as the friends of bimetallism," said the chairman of the senate finance committee, "claiming to be in favor of the monetary use of both gold and silver, they have for the last four years been engaged in a crusade in behalf of the single standard of silver, in a serious attempt to place the money and business of the country upon a silver basis."

The democratic advocates of free coinage are not in any sense bimetallists, but silver monometallists of the most pronounced type.

They reject all the theories upon which bimetallism can be intelligently defended and persistently advocate a course which is sure to result in the use of silver alone as the standard of value.

How any rational man can doubt that the so-called bimetallism advocated by Mr. Bryan and his adherents would bring the country to a silver standard is incomprehensible.

The inevitable effect of opening our mints, independent of other nations, to the free coinage of silver, at the existing legal ratio, would be to expel gold from circulation and to a large extent from the country and that having been accomplished we should necessarily reach a silver basis.

All financial experience demonstrates this, our own history furnishing abundant evidence.

THE THREASURY SURPLUS.

The question of dealing with the treasury surplus, raised by the action of Secretary Gage in ordering the receipts from internal revenue to be deposited in the banks that are government depositories, is of very considerable importance to the financial and business interests of the country.

A New York dispatch says it is regarded there as even more important that congress should at this session adopt some measure that will prevent the gorging of the treasury with vast amounts of money received from taxes that the currency bill itself should be adopted.

When it is believed that in all probability, unless there is a great diminution in imports and stagnation in domestic business, conditions most unlikely to arise, the secretary of the treasury will have to report at the end of the year a surplus of not far from \$100,000,000.

It is also figured that by midsummer or a little later the available cash balance in the national treasury will show an increase over the balance reported at the beginning of this year of \$90,000,000.

Such an amount withdrawn from circulation and kept in the treasury would be very likely to cause trouble in the money market and seriously affect business interests.

Under existing law the secretary of the treasury is authorized to deposit internal revenue in banks that furnish the required bond security, as Secretary Gage has done and as a former democratic secretary of the treasury, Mr. Fairchild, did.

There are but two ways in which the national treasury can give relief to the money market in a time of stringency—the deposit of public funds in the banks and the purchase of bonds.

Secretary Gage has employed both these means with unquestionable benefit to the public, but there has been a vigorous clamor against his action and congress has called upon him for information in regard to the placing of deposits.

Undoubtedly Secretary Gage has been absolutely fair and straightforward in this matter, but it is a question whether the secretary of the treasury should have so important a power to be exercised in his discretion.

The power to expand or contract the currency is of such magnitude that the wisdom of committing it to the will of one person may fairly be doubted.

The Financial Chronicle suggests that congress pass a law requiring, not merely authorizing, the secretary of the treasury to deposit each week in depository banks all the money collected by the government in excess of its current expenses, congress to fix at the same time the security that shall be required.

This would take from the secretary all discretion and responsibility in the matter of depositing the public funds and prevent any accumulation, beyond a week, of money in the treasury in excess of current expenses.

Under this plan the money received by the government for taxes would become immediately available for the use of the people, instead of lying idle in the treasury.

There may be valid objections to this plan, but it certainly merits consideration. The accumulation of money in the treasury, when the business demands for currency are greater than ever before and growing, is manifestly a condition that needs correction and one that should command the earnest attention of congress.

The county commissioners cannot play ostrich in ignoring the default letter of Albyn Frank, in which he boldly declares his determination to pocket the surplus of the fees collected since July 1 over and above the limit fixed by the law.

The board certainly cannot plead the baby act by pretending that they did not know of the scandals that have permeated the clerk's office.

They can no longer excuse their indifference to the public interest by accepting the assurance that everything is square in the office when Mr. Frank's bondsmen have shown their lack of confidence by assuming possession of Frank's accounts.

GRAND ISLAND REPUBLICAN.

Grand Island Republican: What's the matter with Bryant for supreme court clerk? York Times (rep.): The sting of ingratitude will soon be superseded by the itch for power with Mr. Hitechcock.

North Platte Tribune (rep.): Judge-elect Holcomb has taken his seat on the state bench. It is hoped the new judge will not prove an addition to the popular as to allow his intense partisanship to get the better of his judgment in cases which may have a political bearing.

Madison Star (pop.): It begins to look as if the State Board of Transportation would be something more than a mere name directed to do nothing but to perform the duties for which it was intended—the lowering of exorbitant rates now being levied by the railroads.

Stanton Pickett (rep.): Next fall John S. Robinson will be asked to explain why he voted to seat a polygamist in direct opposition to the constitution and common decency.

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O'Neill Independent (pop.): The populist party will not make any unjust demands for the honor of supplying a rail to the presidential kite in 1900, but there are a few suggestions as to the platform upon which his candidate for president must stand that will have to be conceded by the democratic organization in order to perfect a fusion and not least among the additions to the Chicago platform that the populists will ask is a plank declaring unequivocally for the government ownership of railroads.

Tobias Gazette (rep.): The republicans of the state of Nebraska have it in their power to win at the coming fall election if they will lay aside everything that will not help to elect the party and all put together. It may seem a little early, but it is our opinion that it is best not to be caught napping.

Greely Leader (rep.): Mr. Bryan's marvelous escape from the bear garden panther den in Texas last week will probably cut a big figure in this great talker's presidential campaign this fall.

The Chicago drainage canal, which has just been turned loose, continues to be a source of discord between St. Louis and Chicago.

More Work, Less Pay. Congress should let the prize fighters have a monopoly of the much talk and little work habit.

Remember 1812. St. Louis Republic. If Great Britain counts on American friendship she mustn't revive that old "right of search" doctrine which made the war of 1812 necessary.

Teaching Filipinos How to Shoot. Globe-Democrat. Commodore Watson will open at Manila a naval school for sixty likely young Filipinos. The Malays have an aptitude for the sea that can be turned to good account.

Sample of Boer Irony. Indianapolis News. The fact that General Buller has done little or nothing since being in South Africa gives a touch of fine irony to the heliograph signal of Boers to the British recently: "Why is Roberts coming? What has Buller done?"

Striking a Popular Chord. Grand Island Republican. The Omaha Illustrated Sunday Bee contained an excellent illustration of a lesson in music as taught in the Grand Island graded school.

Increased Government Revenue. Philadelphia Record. One of the results of improved trade and industry has been a large increase in the federal revenue from customs and internal taxes.

Senator Stewart Squelches a Rumor. Washington Post. Through the dark and dingy corridors of the capitol recently there stalked a rumor. It was a rumor of the weird and impossible kind, but one ought not get frightened at a spooky rumor.

It was said that Senator Stewart would—But first it must be understood that Stewart has been a silver man since silver was discovered and he was born—the period being synchronous—and he has talked for the white metal on every possible occasion.

BRUCE ISLAND OF STATE POLITICS.

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ECHOES OF OUR WAR.

The famous loop of the Brooklyn during the battle of July 2, which has called forth sharp criticism on Rear Admiral Schley, was not ordered by that officer at all, but that gallant officer took the responsibility for it, whether right or wrong.

Rear Admiral Schley, from the very first, assumed the responsibility for this maneuver, accepting at the same time all criticism that went with it. It would have been rather out of place for Captain Cook to announce that he ordered the loop, in view of the statement of his superior officers, for to have done so would merely have added additional fuel to the fire of controversy then raging.

The famous loop has been unduly magnified by the opponents of Rear Admiral Schley for the deliberate purpose of discrediting his splendid achievement in the destruction of Cervera's fleet.

Manila papers publish an order from General Oia directed to his subordinate commanding them to let go their "gratitude" and reform their conduct.

Commanding officers, heads of departments and others exercising control are directed to let their best efforts to this end. They will be held responsible, not within their proper sphere, that all reports and allegations of offenses of this nature are probed to the bottom and when found to be supported by evidence, that the offenders are brought to justice.

Part of the gross impropriety which has acted manifestly involve, the acceptance of gifts from inferiors and recipients is repugnant to section 1784, Revised Statutes, which prohibits incumbents of superior positions from receiving any gift or present offered or presented to them as a contribution, from persons in government employ receiving a less salary than themselves.

The obvious purpose of this law, as construed by the United States supreme court, is the protection of employees in the discharge of their official duties and the maintenance of proper discipline in the government service.

Those in public employment can be solicited by others in office, to receive a bribe, a request in name may in effect become a demand, failure to meet which is likely to arouse resentment in officials having the power of removal, and the feeling of security in government employment, so conducive to the performance of faithful service, is seriously shaken if not entirely destroyed.

HERE AND THERE. A copy of the Honolulu Bulletin of December 16, 1899, blew into The Bee office a few days ago with a pathetic reminder of the joyous summer days of 1898.

The sunburnt man who wears a face like a mole's—his beasty brother—Who lets one chilling brown eye place But only to present another—Who always is content to grope Along the path of care and bother And discontent, can never hope To win the good things of the earth, God has no use for solemn cheer, But loves the man that makes us laugh.

THE LAUGH-MAKER. Denver Post. The morbid man who wears a face like a mole's—his beasty brother—Who lets one chilling brown eye place But only to present another—Who always is content to grope Along the path of care and bother And discontent, can never hope To win the good things of the earth, God has no use for solemn cheer, But loves the man that makes us laugh.

One Bright Spot that Shines in a Murky World. Philadelphia Times. Amid all the uncertainties of human affairs, the clouds and sunshine that alternate in the world's history, there is one bright spot on earth where never fails that, that is Guam. It came first within our kin when an American cruiser, on its way to Manila, stopped at Guam to take possession and was greeted with all courtesy by the Spanish governor, who regretted that he had no powder to return his hero's kind salute.

It is nothing but the administration shown greater judgment than in the assignment of a governor for Guam to replace the courteous Spanish official carried off by our man-of-war. It was felt that a comic opera role like this required a comedian and Captain Leary, U. S. N., was cast for the part.

The expectations suggested by his name have been realized. In courageous good sense joined with rollicking humor, Captain Leary is a hit with a boy and every vessel that touches at Guam finds him still enjoying himself in his comic opera domain.

His ingenious scheme of raising revenue by the sale of Guam postage stamps to collectors was only a minor detail of his statesmanship. What Bates has been bothering himself, and the president, about slavery among the Sulus, and congressional commissions have been wondering what to do with the coolies in Hawaii, Leary has settled the question in Guam by a stroke of the pen. He has simply abolished the labor system in practice there by proclamation.

That is the advantage of being not only without cable communication with Washington, but out of reach of the mails. The general Leary has not stopped at reforming the labor system of the island. He seems to be reforming their religion as well. He has, we read, deported all the Spanish priests, "for reasons which were sufficient to him." We have no doubt that all that they are good reasons. The Guam and they probably have put obstructions in the way of the American boss that he could remove only by removing them. Still nobody but Leary would have hit upon so simple a remedy.

What has become of the deported priests or whether Governor Leary's navy chaplain is performing their functions, we shall not learn till the next ship touches at Guam, and that may be a long while hence. Meanwhile the general governor may be recalled upon to maintain his paternal administration with unperurbed good humor, and kirk was not more completely the monarch of all he surveyed and he has an opportunity to work out, safe from interference, an ideal government such as now exists nowhere outside the realm of comic opera.

success in the Peninsula war that made Wellington famous. At Waterloo he was clearly out-generated and out-fought until the Germans, under Blucher rescued him at the critical moment. At New Orleans Andrew Jackson, with only 3000 men that could be called soldiers and a motley crew of backwoodsmen, mechanics, clerks, wharf-rats, beachcombers and free negroes, all hastily enlisted and rudely armed, met and defeated Pakenham, in command of 12,000 of Wellington's Peninsula veterans, the very flower of the British army.

These are facts. Every attentive student of events in South Africa has need to remember them in his efforts to understand events there.

THE PASSING OF GREAT SCOTT. Tobias Gazette: If we are not very much mistaken Judge Scott of Omaha will feel the "sting of ingratitude" from more than one in Omaha after he ceases to be judge. Gretta Brewer: The irrepressible Judge Scott has stepped off the district bench forever. While he has been a member of the judiciary of this district he has made himself cordially disliked by everybody. In Sarpy cases he adjourned court numbers of times in order that he might satisfy his personal ambitions. He was the crassest judge that ever sat on the bench in Sarpy county. A client who had employed an attorney that the judge disliked could not get justice. The voters did a good thing when they retired to private life this man. Peace to his ashes.

York Times: Today Cunningham R. Scott is a private citizen, and, like the rest of us, subject to the annoyances and torments that can be inflicted by demagogues and petty tyrants in office. While clothed in brief authority he not only played such fantastic tricks as made his name a household word, but he made it so uncomfortable as possibly all who were compelled in the pursuit of justice to come in his way. His fellowmen entrusted him with a little, temporary power and he gave them an illustration of Africa and Gessler and that class of petty despots and tyrants. He only lacked the authority to hang and burn and quarter and starve men, women and children, and he mocked them in their sufferings. Besides all this he is a charlatan and a buffoon. Lawyers snickered and litigants laughed at his ridiculous antics on the bench and felt a contempt for his office. If he had had a finer all who held his court in contempt in proportion to the contempt they felt, the fines would have amounted to more than all the taxes in the state.

CHERRY CHAFF. Yonkers Statesman: She—I'm one of her oldest friends. He—You look it. He—You look it. Chicago Record: Pearl—that Italian vendor is up with the times. Tully—in what way? Pearl—he's selling horseless chestnuts. Cleveland Plain Dealer: "I see that Mrs. Kruger always has a good Paul's hair." "Say, you can't expect such a man to be afraid of anything on earth, can you?"

Chicago News: "Don't you know," she chirped over her shoulder, "that you remind me of the best method used to make?" The old joke in new form staggered him. "In—In what way?" he gasped. "Why, you are a beauty."

Washington Star: "You had better swear off tobacco, I'll show you a man of 90 who has never smoked in his life." "Fetch him around; I'll show you a man of 88 who has smoked all he wanted to."

Chicago Times-Herald: "You are my ideal," he said earnestly; "the only girl I ever loved, the only girl I ever could love, and either possibly fill the void in my heart." "And if you never had met me, George," she asked anxiously, "would you never have cared for any girl at all?"

THE LAUGH-MAKER. Denver Post. The morbid man who wears a face like a mole's—his beasty brother—Who lets one chilling brown eye place But only to present another—Who always is content to grope Along the path of care and bother And discontent, can never hope To win the good things of the earth, God has no use for solemn cheer, But loves the man that makes us laugh.

When the sun is shining and the clouds are gone, and the birds are singing and the flowers are blooming, and the world is full of joy and gladness, and the heart is full of love and affection, and the soul is full of peace and contentment, and the mind is full of wisdom and knowledge, and the body is full of health and strength, and the spirit is full of hope and faith, and the life is full of meaning and purpose, and the death is full of glory and triumph, and the eternity is full of bliss and happiness, and the universe is full of love and light, and the world is full of peace and contentment, and the heart is full of love and affection, and the soul is full of peace and contentment, and the mind is full of wisdom and knowledge,