

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

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Bryan must have felt at home while touring the "gas belt" of Indiana. The pumpkin vine is still safe, but demopop hopes show signs of a heavy frost.

The monthly record of mortgages filed and released continues to make eloquent speeches for republican prosperity.

The Paris exposition is coming down the home stretch. Its gait is decidedly broken and its speed below its own record.

Even the faint shadow of Bryanism on the national life is having its effect on industrial life. Do the workmen want the substance of calamity?

English campaigns are short compared with those in this country, but the elections themselves are as long drawn out as a stuttering man's story.

It looks as if it were to be a determined contest for popularity this year between football and golf. At last account golf was ahead by several holes.

The international peace congress is now in session in Paris. A peace congress should be the busiest body in the world today if it tries to still the rattle of the musket and the machine gun.

The Council Bluffs exterminator of train robbers should at once step into a large and lucrative business. No other hold of industry in the west is so little worked in which there are so many good openings.

Senator Hear says that even though the Philippine question were paramount Mr. Bryan would be incompetent to handle it. That is the best reason for refusing to place such a responsible duty upon an irresponsible politician.

An Illinois judge has just granted a divorce to a couple who had recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary commemorating fifty years of married bliss. It is evidently never too late for a divorce lawyer to get in a fee.

Spanish promises of reform have again gone to protest and there are signs of approaching trouble in that country. The people of Spain have been patient to a degree inconceivable in this country and sooner or later must remedy their evils or as a nation disappear under an unbearable load of taxes and public debt.

Chicago's school board is taking steps in the direction of permanent tenure of teachers on the order of the plan adopted by Omaha. The object is to put an end to the pulling and hauling exerted for teachers possessed of influence at the time annual promotions and elections are on the boards. There is no place where a strict merit system is needed so badly as in the public schools.

Italy objects to the freedom allowed anarchists in this country. The United States would be pleased if Italy and other countries would keep their anarchists at home. There is room here for those who come to work and build up homes, but those who come to tear down are not wanted. A notification on the part of Italy of the character of the immigrants would serve to keep them within the jurisdiction of their own government.

President McKinley will return tomorrow to Washington after a much interrupted vacation spent at his old home at Canton. That the president earned a much needed rest will be conceded by opponents as well as friends. No man who has occupied the presidential chair has devoted himself so constantly and conscientiously to the duties of the office as has President McKinley, and that explains in a measure why the people place unqualified confidence in him.

SOUNDING FALSE ALARMS.

The chief pretense of Bryan and his followers in pressing the so-called paramount issue of imperialism is to sound the alarm to the people of the United States that unless they rally to his support the constitution, which they have cherished and guarded for more than 100 years, will be wrested from them or overturned.

The Kansas City platform declares the express belief "that our most cherished institutions are in great peril, that the very existence of our constitutional republic is at stake, and that the decision now to be rendered will determine whether or not our children are to enjoy those blessed privileges of free government which have made the United States great, prosperous and honored."

This appeal must have a familiar ring to those who harbor a vivid recollection of former democratic platforms. Democratic platform-makers seem to have had almost from the first a special weakness for conjuring up dangers to the constitution and sounding false alarms against them. Up to the time of Lincoln's election the constitution was regularly appealed to in successive democratic conventions as the guaranty of non-interference with the continuance of slavery in the south and its extension to the territories in the west. After the war had been fought almost to a successful conclusion the democrats in their convention of 1864 not only declared that the war to restore the union had proved a failure, but warned the people—

That the aim and object of the democratic party is to preserve the federal union and the rights of the states unimpaired; and they hereby declare that they consider that the administrative usurpation of extraordinary and dangerous powers not granted by the constitution...

The war was nevertheless carried on to its conclusion and the people of the seceding states compelled to return against their consent, while the constitution emerged unscathed. This, however, did not prevent the democrats in their next national platform from sounding another alarm for the preservation of the constitution, supposed to be again in danger. After a long arraignment of alleged evils fostered under the republican party it concludes:

Under its repeated assaults the pillars of the government are rocking on their base and should it succeed in November next and inaugurate its president we meet as a subjected and conquered people amid the ruins of liberty and the scattered fragments of the constitution.

For some reason the constitution refused to be scattered into fragments and liberty declined to fall to ruins, although General Grant was elected triumphant as the candidate of the republican party.

In 1872 the people were again told that the constitution was once more in danger. The platform on which Horace Greeley, for whom the opposition centered, appealed to the country, charged the administration in power with being—

Guilty of wanton disregard of the laws of the land and of usurping powers not granted by the constitution. It has acted as if the laws had binding force only for those who are governed and not for those who govern. It has thus struck a blow at the fundamental principles of constitutional government and the liberties of the citizen.

Strange to say the people refused to recognize the fast-approaching end of their liberties and the threatened destruction of the constitution. They gave a new vote of confidence in the republican party by the re-election of President Grant, and the constitution lived on unimpaired.

Perhaps to enable the democrats in 1876 to reaffirm in their platform their devotion to the constitution which they had so often seen threatened with annihilation, they for once worked themselves up to "record steadfast confidence in the perpetuity of republican self-government." For fear they had gone too far, however, they recovered sufficiently in 1880 to declare—

Opposition to centralization and to that dangerous spirit of encroachment which tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments of the union and thus to create, whatever be the form of government, a real despotism.

It was not imperialism but despotism that they then pictured before them. Yet President Garfield was elected, but no despotism followed.

With all these examples before them is it any wonder the Kansas City platform-makers found a new demand for the rescue of the constitution from imminent peril? Is it any wonder that the party felt called upon to pose again as the protector of the liberties of the people against designing usurpers?

The democratic alarm for the constitution, however, is only the old cry of 110 years. It has passed through the fiery ordeal of civil war, and we may be sure that the republic founded by the fathers will defy its enemies from within and without for at least another 100 years.

HE SHOULD ANSWER.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican, which is zealously supporting Mr. Bryan on the issue of "imperialism," thinks he should answer the question regarding negro disfranchisement in North Carolina. "It is a challenge," says the Republican, "simply for Mr. Bryan's personal opinion on the political rights of the negro in the United States and the efforts of men of his party in the south to discriminate against the negro in respect to those rights. And in view of the existence of a strong public interest in the case it is not an impertinent challenge. Mr. Bryan accordingly, we think, should frankly answer the question."

The Republican further says that "Mr. Bryan can better afford to lose every southern state than to appear as countenancing the formal establishment of negro inequality before the law in North Carolina or anywhere else." But Mr. Bryan takes an entirely different view of the matter. He is not in this campaign to take any chances on losing votes and as an answer to this question would cost him votes either in the south or in the north he will maintain silence in regard to it. This may impair his reputation for frankness, in the estimation of some admirers of Mr. Bryan as the editor of the Republican, but the popocratic candidate is quite willing to suffer this rather than hazard the loss of any of his supporters, particularly in the south. The favor of the Tillmans of that section he esteems of far more value than the good will of the anti-imperialists of Massachusetts.

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SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Chicago Post: Rev. Anson Phelps Stokes, Jr., asserts that great wealth is nothing short of a millstone about a man's neck, but it is worthy of note that people strive hard for the millstone and few make any heroic effort to rid themselves of it. They chip off a piece now and then to lighten the load a little, but they manage to worry along with the major portion of the burden.

Indianapolis Journal: Here—what's this? Rev. Charles Sheldon of how-Chris-should-ed-it-is paper notoriety has been saying complimentary things of the Christian endeavorers. At a public meeting in Boston the other day he remarked casually in the course of an address that he was sure the Br-avor associates would die and that they ought to die if the members continue to do nothing but speak in meeting of experiences they have never had. They must work, he said, if they would live. It seems probable that this is one of the times when Mr. Sheldon is right.

Detroit Free Press: Miss Duvoe, a missionary to China, whose home is in Albany, was among the refugees who reached San Francisco yesterday on the Copitic. This is how the lady discusses the settlement of the Chinese question: "There is no use talking settlement until we have the heads of Prince Tuan and of the empress dowager. It is foolish to think of honest peace while they are living. In my judgment they should be beheaded before negotiations for peace are entered into." This is a most interesting Christian application of Boxer principles to Chinese politics. It was the theory of the Boxers that there could be no peace or prosperity in China until the foreign devil was exterminated. Thereupon the Boxer proceeded to exterminate the foreign devil. Miss Duvoe declares that there can be no peace in China until the dowager empress and Prince Tuan are beheaded, so she would insist upon having their heads before any negotiations for peace were entered into. What a benign, forgiving, gentle-minded follower of the Master she would be to be sure, and how helplessly beset by the Chinese must be to refuse the blessings of Christianity that are tendered by such loving hands.

Buffalo Express: In view of the price of coal, the decision of that Connecticut man not to pay a tax of \$1 and stay in jail all winter instead must be regarded as rather sensible.

Philadelphia Times: Whither We Are Drifting. If electricity is going to run cars at a hundred miles an hour, one thing certain is it is not going to make it any easier to catch a train.

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Louisville Courier-Journal: One of the besieged women among the Pekin legationees has reached San Francisco and has begun talking of how she worked her head off in the Boxer during those trying days. It becomes more and more evident that the Boxers had plenty of provocation.

Minneapolis Times: They are making a little experiment in municipal ownership in San Juan, Porto Rico. The gas company shut down because the mayor sent a gang of policemen out to the works and the town is all lit up again. This is one of the few instances on record of a debtor seizing the property of a creditor in settlement of an obligation.

Philadelphia North American: It is reported from Pekin that the missionaries are deeply disappointed by the failure of their recruits to do much for the cause of the Chinese and sharply criticize what they call the un-Christian apathy of the military. The report is extraordinary and is not to be accepted without confirmation. If it were true, the missionaries should be enlisted under the Kaiser's banner and sent to the benighted heathen not peace, but the sword.

Boston Globe: How the modern trotting horse has been nearing, little by little, the two-minute per mile! Who will say that he may not achieve that coveted record before the twentieth century is five years old?

Here's the record of trotting-horse progress in the nineteenth century: 1868 2:59 Boston Horse..... 1:59 2:48 Edw. Forrest..... 1:54 2:39 Lucy Surook..... 1:52 2:30 Flora Temple..... 1:50 2:24 Dexter..... 1:49 2:19 St. Julian..... 1:48 2:14 Maid S..... 1:45 2:08 The Abbott..... 1:43 2:04 Paste this in your husband and surprise your friends with your exact and detailed knowledge of horse matters.

LAST OF GREAT GROUP.

Looking Backward Over the Public Career of John Sherman. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

John Sherman has sold his residence and other property in Mansfield and has moved to Washington, where he intends to pass the remainder of his days. The celebrated Ohioan is now 77 years old. He was in public life longer than any other man now living in the United States. The only person who rivaled him in duration of political service, Justin S. Morrill, died two years ago. Both entered congress together back in 1855 and Sherman remained in office from that time—in house, senate or cabinet—with scarcely an hour's interruption, until his final retirement in 1898. No other American except Morrill ever closely approached this service record in duration.

When Tom Corwin, who had been in the Ohio legislature in the 20s and in the national house of representatives in the 30s and in the senate in the 40s, beside being governor of his state, was the only citizen representative at the outbreak of the war of secession, he said, mournfully, after taking a glance around the senate and the house: "The gods are all dead." The great figures of Corwin's earlier days—Calhoun, Webster, Clay, John Quincy Adams, Benton, William Rufus King and most of the rest of the celebrities with whom he served—had departed and a new group of men were on the scene. Something of the same sort of feeling will come to Sherman as he takes a look over the faces in both branches of congress in 1900. He will see many persons, of course, in the senate, who were there when he resigned from that body in 1897 to take a place in the cabinet of President McKinley. More of these were there in the other branch of congress when he, early in 1861, entered the senate to take the place vacated by Chase when the latter became secretary of the treasury in the cabinet of President Lincoln.

Galusha A. Grow of Pennsylvania, now in the house of representatives, was in that body as far back as 1851, four years before Sherman entered it, but Grow was out of public life many years and his aggregate service falls far short of Sherman's in duration. Of the men who were prominent in Sherman's early days in congress—Douglas, Seward, Chase, Wade, Corwin, Crittenden, Sumner, Wilson, Fish and many others—all are dead, some of them for nearly forty years. Blaine, Conkling, Thurman and Bayard, all national personages in their day, but all of whom made their entrance into public life later than Sherman, have departed before him. Dawes, who entered congress only one year later than Sherman, is still alive. Everts, Shurz and a few other original republicans are also yet among the living, but none of these ever filled so prominent a place among the country's celebrities as that which for more than forty years Sherman occupied. It was Sherman's fortune to become a national figure right at the outset in his public life through his services on the committee appointed by Speaker Banks in 1856 to inquire into the troubles in Kansas and the prominence thus gained he retained to the end of his service. John Sherman has helped to make more history than any other American whom this generation has known, and all of it has been history of which his countrymen can be proud.

BLASTS FROM RAM'S HORN.

Wild oats will never yield wheat. Helping others is the best self-help. A doctor's head will do a fool no good. A coked hat just fits a lop-sided brain. A collection is often a selection of diminutives. If you give the devil nothing to devour he will give you death. A man's collections are only as deep as his salvation is high. The good seeds that fall of fruit are but a reproach to the soil.

It takes more than the gaslight of burning crutony to light a church. He who lets the offering basket go by may have less cause to blush than he who tries to make a nickel ring like a dollar. The man who asks God for his daily bread will not be asleep in the shade when he ought to be out in the field at work. Men of the strongest denominational convictions often are found feeling for the smallest denomination in their pockets at the collection.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTIES.

Brooklyn Life: Miss Romantique—How pale the moon looks tonight! Mr. Grouch-Huh! Those stony couples I had to look at are enough to make any one sick.

Detroit Free Press: She—Which would you rather marry, the prettiest woman in the world or the homeliest? He—The prettiest, of course. Why do you ask me? She—Merely to find out if you were just like all the other men.

Indianapolis Journal: "I'd like to run every pistachio out of town." "What's the matter?" "Why one of 'em told my wife