

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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Notary Public. GEORGE B. TSCHECHICK. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, A. D. 1900.

Making franchises "attractive" in order that they may sell well is dangerous business. The county commissioners must remember this.

Two millions of dollars contributed to the relief of Galveston is a measure of the generosity of Americans when aroused by the presence of a great disaster.

Mrs. Nation is verifying the truth of Washington Irving's epigram that the tongue of a scold is the only edged tool which does not grow dull through continued use.

Russia is expected to demand 20,000,000 tons as an inducement to get out of Manchuria. At the rate the powers are proceeding to mortgage China a deficiency judgment will be demanded.

The unsparring application of the ax to the assessment roll suggests the thought that the Board of Equalization has lost its pruning knife. Revenue reform has not yet reached its zenith in Omaha.

The shriek which Freedom emitted when Kosciuszko fell is still echoing in Poland. Which proves that ruling as a monarch over people in whose hearts the seed of democracy has taken root has its drawbacks.

Every cold wave which has struck Nebraska this winter turned back disgusted after a few hours' effort. The state has been advertised as a winter resort and Nebraskans believe in keeping faith with the public.

Perpetual franchises in relation to quasi-public functions are a menace. There can be no doubt about that. Any charter granted by the county should contain specific and definite limitations both as to time and scope.

The bill for the relief of newspapers lacking in circulation keeps coming up in the legislature almost as regularly as any of the other time-tried and fire-tested holdup measures. And it is invariably sponsored by a popocrat.

If the Commercial club's committee only does its duty, the franchise for an electric car line over the country roads will never pass in its present form. It is the interest of the people and not the profit of promoters that must be considered.

The semi-annual bill to prevent the giving away of railroad passes and punish the giver and recipient has made its appearance at Lincoln. When it was read every other man in the chamber searched his pocket to see if his pasteboard was all right.

The War department clerks are busy preparing information requested by Senator Pettigrew. After March 4 the various departments will be relieved of the responsibility of educating the South Dakotan and will have more time to devote to routine business.

The city council doesn't seem disposed to defy the order of the court at the behest of the men who are protesting against the tax levy. Moral support is all right, but would hardly operate to keep a council out of jail or to alleviate the conditions that attend confinement. And then in the end the court must be obeyed.

It is not so material how the matter is accomplished as it is to have some kind of a law which will prevent someone who has benefited by improvements from throwing the expense of them onto the general public through a legal technicality. Omaha taxpayers have \$750,000 worth of this kind of experience and are not looking for any more.

The present degeneracy of Texas was never more clearly demonstrated than in congress the other day. The member from Oklahoma accused a Texas member of dishonesty and the Lone Star congressman simply rose to a question of privilege. If it had been Joe Bailey, when that gentleman was at his best, he would have raised something else.

ONE-SIDED DEVELOPMENT.

Senator Depew, in his speech on the ship subsidy bill, made a forceful point when he said that we have been so absorbed in production that we have neglected utterly the equally important question, if we are to be a world power, of our position upon the ocean.

DISCRIMINATES AGAINST OMAHA.

Another very excellent opportunity for the Commercial club's active interference is presented in the case of the Bemis Omaha Bag company. This firm had all plans arranged for the erection of a large factory in addition to its present plant in Omaha, but has abandoned the venture because of the unsatisfactory classification of freight rates made by the local railroads.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Much boasting has been done in recent times of the wonderful advance made by the United States in the way of exports of manufactured articles. As a nation we have outstripped all others, and now stand in the front rank with a slight but nevertheless appreciable lead over Great Britain, which has until very recently led the world.

INTERESTING NATIONAL GRIEF.

Laureate Austin's poetry is doing much to intensify and prolong the period of mourning in Great Britain.

THE CHINESE SITUATION.

The difficulties in the Chinese situation have not been overcome and further trouble and complications are probable. The other powers having insisted upon carrying on negotiations at Peking as to all the matters to be settled with China, the United States has acquiesced and special instructions have been sent to the American minister in regard to the question of indemnity.

THE HOUSE IN ACTION.

The house of representatives felt particularly "flush" last Saturday and spent money like water. Within a period of three hours it passed the army bill, which carries the expenditure of about \$13,000,000 and the naval appropriation bill, carrying \$7,000,000 and authorizing the expenditure of more than \$10,000,000 for new ships.

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COURTS OF THE LAND.

There are two naval vessels in Venezuelan ports to protect the lives of Americans, but neither good policy nor justice warrant the use of force to establish proper rights which are in dispute until civil remedies have been exhausted or denied.

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PASSING OF A MASTER MUSICIAN.

Verdi's Long Life and His Immortal Compositions. Chicago Post. Few of the great representatives of the nineteenth century—the work and progress—are left us. The great Italian composer, Verdi, who celebrated his 87th birthday, in October last, is about to depart from this mundane sphere, which he did so much to enlighten and improve.

PRIZE HERO OF THE PLEBES.

Man Who Smashed Thirty-Fourth-Class Cadets at West Point. During the congressional investigation into the charges against a West Point one of the cadets testified that he heard of but one "plebe" who escaped the ordeal. "He was a plebe in 1888," said the witness.

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