

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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It was evidently another case of "Too Much Johnson."

General Weyler proposes to reorganize the Spanish army. The general has undertaken a large task.

Senator Fairbanks of Indiana has formally shifted his castor into the ring for the republican presidential nomination of 1904.

It was the appropriate thing for the High school cadets to do in naming their camp after the lamented hero of Company L of the First Nebraska.

With all the chiefs of police of the country temporarily located there, New York ought to be a model town at least as long as the convention of police chiefs lasts.

The brick campaign may be ended, but that does not obviate the necessity of raising still more money before the foundation bricks of the auditorium can be laid.

The State Board of Public Lands and Buildings has raised its ante, and it is now up to the owners of the old fair site at Lincoln to say whether they will call it.

It is to be hoped Charles A. Towne will find his removal to New York to engage in business more profitable than playing a brief engagement as tail to the Bryanite kite.

St. Joseph jobbers are trying to invade trade territory which properly belongs to Omaha. Omaha jobbers should not be backward about meeting their St. Joseph competitors on their own field.

The next issue of the Commoner will contain an extended eulogy on the dissenting opinion in the Porto Rican cases. We feel satisfied we can make this prediction without fear of its failure to materialize.

The school board will have no difficulty in securing available material for truant officers when the time arrives, but there is no call for employing them at this season when the school year is about to close. The truant officers will keep.

Foreign papers appear to think that the policy of expansion as interpreted by the supreme court has put the Monroe doctrine out of commission. The first attempt to act in conflict with that doctrine will convince them of their error.

Senator Morgan has a simple plan for solving the political questions of Alabama. He would make white men only eligible to hold office. If he would substitute for the word men "democrats" it would come nearer expressing the real design of the senator.

A combination of dynamite, gasoline and a match has proved sufficient to wake up a Missouri town. There are other places which might try the experiment to advantage, though a slightly decreased dose would probably answer the purpose just as well.

The German emperor reviewed the Guard corps, but if he made any speech the press is silent about it. German editors are doubtless fearful of being compelled to hold an executive session behind prison bars with no one save themselves in attendance to answer poll call.

The estimated cost of repairing asphalt pavements is \$15,000. Unless the council can spare that sum from the general fund, property owners on Sixth and Douglas streets should get together and arrange for repaving instead of repairing the asphalt pavement.

The Iowa supreme court has decided that dramatic critics are to be allowed great latitude in commenting on performances without being liable for damages. The court recognizes the fact that the English language is not forcible enough to label some alleged dramatic performances.

MEMORIAL DAY.

Today a grateful nation pays homage to the dead and does honor to the living whose patriotism and valor and self-sacrifice preserved the union and kept this an undivided country. Today a great, free, prosperous and happy people recall the deeds of the men of the sixties and testify their appreciation of and gratitude for what those men accomplished in the cause of human freedom.

Memorial day appeals to the best instincts and impulses of our nature. It is an inspiration to loyalty, fidelity and patriotism. It teaches a just estimate of that sentiment which prompts men to make any sacrifice for the defense of country. To those who have an intelligent comprehension of its significance it is broadening and elevating. The recurrence of this day may also remind us that the ranks of the union soldiers are rapidly diminishing. Their graves are much more numerous today than a year ago and the time is not far distant when the last of them will have joined the innumerable host of the dead.

Scolding the hopelessness of inducing the powers to make any reduction in their indemnity demands and facing the fact that after tomorrow these demands, if not accepted, would increase at the rate of a million dollars a day—a sum several times in excess of the revenue of the government—China yielded to the pressure and will pay the full amount of the indemnity asked.

As to the method of paying the \$337,000,000 indemnity and the means of obtaining the money, regarding which there is diversity of views among the powers, undoubtedly the Chinese government will without hesitation submit to whatever the foreign governments shall decide upon. It is perhaps safe to assume, also, that in respect to all questions yet to be settled the Chinese government will be found ready to concede all that the powers shall deem to be necessary for the protection of their interests and the preservation of peace and order in that empire.

The Commercial club has done some good work for Omaha. It has also done a great deal of mischief. In many instances it has been helpful in stimulating and promoting business enterprises that have contributed to the upbuilding of the city.

The trouble arises from the disposition of certain members of the executive committee to use the club for airing personal grievances and protecting favored interests. The attempt to commit the club to the support of Chief Redell in advance of the hearing of the charges now pending before the Fire and Police commission is the latest example.

Representatives of the Boers have made a formal appeal to The Hague arbitration tribunal to settle the differences between them and England. It is not likely, after rejecting the mediation of the United States and expending millions of money, to say nothing of the loss of thousands of lives, Great Britain would consent to arbitrate.

Our local popercrate contemporary gives it out that it proposes to reverse the decision of the supreme court in the Porto Rican cases if only given time. As it has framed the habit of reversing judicial decisions that do not suit it, without waiting for the aid or consent of the courts that have promulgated them, of course it was not expected to take the pronouncement of the United States supreme court as final.

The announcement is made that Charles A. Towne, the silver-tongued champion of Bryanism, is about to leave Minnesota for good and proposes to make New York City his future home. Mr. Towne has come to the conclusion that more money can be gotten out of Texas oil stocks on Wall street than of the United States mint at Philadelphia.

zens has the right to impugn the motives of these officers, in advance of any action. The interests of the fire insurance agents who are projecting themselves into the breach are certainly no greater than those of the insured.

We all want the best fire protection that can be had for the money available for that purpose, but nobody will contend that a fire chief alone can put out fires. It takes experienced men in the ranks to carry out his orders with a will. Some of the credit at least for the success of the Omaha fire department is due to the men under the chief, who also have rights that the police commission is bound to protect.

Mischief makers in the United States and Cuba who did their best to provoke trouble and delay the cause of Cuban independence came within one vote of accomplishing the result. Partisanship would have a long score to settle if it had brought about what it aimed to accomplish in this case.

China has definitely agreed to pay the indemnity demanded and is willing to hurry matters to avoid the threatened penalty of \$1,000,000 per day which will accrue after July 1. The Chinaman may sometimes be slow to move, but he can see a good financial bargain when it is offered.

Seeking Higher Tones. If Filipinos are to be American citizens it is advisable to teach them the national hymn as early as possible. Many of them hold it that it is "A Hot Time in the Old Town."

Historical Precedent. Minister Cramer need not retire simply because his home country declined to support his gubernatorial candidacy. It will be recalled that Grover Cleveland was nominated and elected to the presidency over the bitter opposition and remonstrance of the delegation from his own state.

They Need the Money. In unanimously declining to accept the proposition of the United States government to buy the Chinese indemnity for \$237,000,000 to \$260,000,000 the European powers probably argue that they need the money, while the United States is rich enough without it. The Americans are not in China for loot.

Will "outland Let Go. There seems to be a general disposition among the Reichsmen who are not to share in the burden of the indemnity. They indignantly reject the offer of \$100,000,000. But unless Sandy has lost his canny disposition Scotland will never permit the mighty pile so freely tendered to return to America.

Possible Change of Front. The dismissed cadets are not going to shove asphalt after all. They are going to make the politicians dismiss the superintendent of West Point academy and put them back. When the politician succeed in doing that it will be time to dismiss the politicians, and dismiss them in a way that will make them call for arnica.

Fighting Over Estates. Samuel Wood of Long Island, when he died some years ago, left a provision in his will for the establishment of a college of medicine and set aside several thousands of dollars for that institution. His estate closed that extensive and prolonged litigation over the estate has consumed the greater part of the property, and that there is little prospect that the college will ever be founded. At some time in the future the people of this state may perhaps demand that the legislature shall take some action to diminish the excessive cost of legal proceedings in disputes over wills and estates.

Things that Retard Expansion of Trade Abroad. While we had been supposing that we were about the only pebbles on the vast beach that lines the ocean of demand for the best in eight of manufactured articles, we are awakened to read from our consular general at Berlin that many of the ways of our manufacturers who seek to sell goods in foreign lands are stupid beyond belief. He says that there is a demand for American-made articles, and that in certain large lines we are rapidly enlarging our trade with Germany, but he reads a severe lecture to the American manufacturer in general because he will not adapt himself to the whims of the foreigner, but persists in trying to force his own ideas on American ways of doing business.

The Western Labor union, in session in Denver, has decided to enter politics as a distinct party. In its broad sense organized labor, through its membership, should certainly take an interest in politics, because it is the duty of every good citizen to do that, but a class party, no matter what that class may be, is repugnant to American institutions and never can be of permanent benefit to the public.

In no market of Europe will any trickery of this kind (failure to deliver goods as contracted) any lapse whatever from absolute honesty and good faith in the fulfillment of a contract—small such fatal consequences attend it as in some cases every detail of commercial practice is strictly regulated by law, and where the purity and excellence of food products are guarded and enforced with a vigor which is all but fanatical.

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The complimentary allusions to Omaha by the general secretary of the Epworth league in his review of its recent visit to this city should afford an effective antidote to the dismal forebodings emanating from some of our local divines, who persist in looking at the dark side

of things, although the bright side is a good deal more impressive. Omaha cannot be such a bad place after all when a high churchman says such nice things about it.

The various menus published in the papers telling people what to eat with each passing day furnish no solution to the magazine article on "How to Live on \$2,500 a Year." The average man who has a wife who can "cook like mother" generally solves the problem of existing in comfort on considerably less than that amount.

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HITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Curious Shadowgraphs on the Porch of the White House. The calligrapher of the New York Herald has reproduced for that paper several of the curious shadowgraphs frequently observed on the columns of the portico of the White House. The phenomena has frequently commented on before and ascribed to the "mystic" quality of the pediments or coping. These shadowgraphs outlined the features of certain notable long since passed away. Now it is claimed they are changing and the profiles of living men in the drama of today are clearly discernible. The Herald says the conspicuous shadowgraph of the present time is that of Marcus A. Hanna, American senator. His round face is clearly outlined on the central pillar on the east side of the portico. Other shadowgraphs are named "Mother McKinley," "Queen Victoria," "The Pointing Hand," "Senator John Sherman," "President McKinley," "The Old Woman at the Spinning Wheel."

People superstitiously inclined regard these shadowgraphs as portents. The Herald account says that about the time the state of the health of the president's mother became such as to cause national alarm "The Pointing Hand" has come to be known as "The Pointing Hand." It was seen upon the central pillar, vague, awesome, breathful of dread happenings. Various interpretations were placed upon the marvel. Gradually the tide of White House opinion swept on until it rolled at the feet of "Mother McKinley." "She is meant," decided the interpreters, "who is meant." But after all, it was only a hand, visible to the inmates and visitors at certain hours of the day, usually around noon and then for only a few minutes at a time.

Later, however, came conclusive testimony to the correctness of the view—so at least do the faithful believers in the shadowgraphs contend. Says one who tells the tale of the pillars and the passing of the mother of the president: "When a guard who received the first telegram from Canton had ushered the messenger up the stairway he leaned for a moment in the embrasure of the hall window. Casting his eye outward he observed a strange shadow outlined sharply on a white column of the stately entrance. Plainly illuminated, as by an artist's brush, was the form of an elderly woman, the profile turned toward the White House doorway."

Long before the death of Senator John Sherman the profile of his face was noted among the shadowgraphs. Even after the death of the original presentment continued, indeed, so long did it remain that it came to regard it as a permanency. But one day it vanished, passing from the sight of men as suddenly as it had arrived and thoroughly lost to view as the actuality of the man it represented. Now it is a memory.

These instances, in the minds of most observers, now grown curious and most fearful of the next manifestation, were sufficient to stamp the shadow as a necrological eccentricity. To offset this theory and prove the shadow to be an uncertainty of significance as they were of appearance, came, during the busy season of the last campaign, the McKinley outline. The National court of the president and the fallen candidate was placed upon the marble. Interpretation varied according to the temperament of the persons putting them forward. With the remembrance of the previous shadow and their meaning fresh in mind, the white shadow, a great howl was raised and an effort was made to get it into politics, but when the testimony was read and the sentence approved Captain Carter was sent to the Leavenworth military prison for years. In this connection it is stated that the great shadow which was in the conspiracy with Captain Carter have not yet been brought to trial. They have not been indicted, but for more than a year a controversy over the particular United States court which shall try them has prevented their trial. In another respect the result of a court-martial is attracted more attention for years was that of Captain Carter of the engineers, who was the leader in a conspiracy by which the United States was swindled out of \$1,500,000 or more. Because a year intervened between the end of his trial and the trial of his sentence a great howl was raised and an effort was made to get it into politics, but when the testimony was read and the sentence approved Captain Carter was sent to the Leavenworth military prison for years. In this connection it is stated that the great shadow which was in the conspiracy with Captain Carter have not yet been brought to trial. They have not been indicted, but for more than a year a controversy over the particular United States court which shall try them has prevented their trial. In another respect the result of a court-martial is attracted more attention for years was that of Captain Carter of the engineers, who was the leader in a conspiracy by which the United States was swindled out of \$1,500,000 or more.

The shadow visitors do not run according to schedule. The time of their appearance is as variable as the wind of heaven. They may appear at 11 o'clock in the morning, making use of the central pillar on the east side. When this happens the White House employees who have been lingering in this part of the establishment in the hope of shadow reward hasten their companions and visitors to share the marvel. Again, the fantastic creature may choose the central pillar of the west side for its resting place, and then it is another of the unexplainable occurrences of the White House shadow. If the latter location is selected by the capricious shadow the time for such appearance is usually in the afternoon, between 1 and 2 o'clock.

While the great majority of those who have viewed the shadowgraphs elect to regard them in the light of the uncanny, there are some materialists in Washington who would account for the appearances by the most natural of agencies. These latter are of opinion that the shadows are cast by the reflection of the sun's rays and that the difference in the sun's rays and through the changing seasons causes the change of location from the east pillar to the west.

To the many, however, this explanation is simply a mistaken attempt at the time with what is fast becoming a cherished institution. As a nation, there is little place for the mysterious. We are not so old as to be able to afford abandoned castles and of amiable ghosts which are the accepted and logical agencies thereof. We are not so young as to pin our faith to witchery. Few luxuries in the line of mystery are at our command. Wherefore, perad the believers in signs and tokens, let there be no scoffing over the appearance of the White House shadowgraphs, which have been and are ever shall be marvels, mysteries and passing phenomena.

Too Much Slang. Pittsburgh Dispatch. While admitting that certain slang phrases may enrich the language and that the difference between a living and a dead language is the presence in one and the absence from the other of new words, a protest must be entered against a too liberal use of unauthorized creations. There are slang words that fill a distinct void—express an idea better than any recognized phrase. These are good. But there is a type of slang as meaningless as it is vulgar that has no function except to deflect attention from the subject at hand. It ought not to be difficult to distinguish between the two—encouraging one, rejecting the other.

The Intention Was Good. Louisville Courier-Journal. That American sentiment at Pekin who shot at one German soldier and hit another a quarter of a mile away should be severely dealt with. We can't afford to keep men in our army who miss their aims a quarter of a mile.

Bearing Down Too Hard. Washington Post. Mr. Bryan's habit of using the word "must" in discussing plans for the democratic future. He may keep it up until he incites somebody to refer to him as Old Musty.

MORE SURPRISES COMING.

Introduction of American Methods on British Docks. How much more is it our British cousins destined soon to receive a convincing, if costly, object lesson as to methods of handling freight, among other important branches of knowledge.

It looks as if our British cousins were destined soon to receive a convincing, if costly, object lesson as to methods of handling freight, among other important branches of knowledge. The Atlantic Transport line, which it is planned, according to rumor, to consolidate with the Leyland line under the direction of "aiming everywhere" Morgan, believes there is great success assured through the introduction of American methods in the transatlantic commerce. As he points the moral:

"It costs 25 cents a ton to handle freight at our Atlantic ports. To handle the same cargo when it arrives in England it costs 75 cents a ton. All along the line the comparison holds good as strongly in favor of American methods. The saving effected by introducing these methods, and through developing letter dock systems, would be at the least 12 1/2 per cent on an investment of \$10,000,000. Indeed, if the cost of handling freight can be brought down to the percentage of 25 per cent an easily be obtained."

Possibly President Baker may be a trifle overanxious in his estimate as to the gains to be made by introducing "American methods" in the freight-handling business in London. The chances are, however, that if the plans in which he is interested just now go through, the world of British commerce will be before it a series of illuminating, even if decidedly unpleasant, surprises.

EXAMPLE FOR CIVIL COURTS.

Prosecution and Conviction of the Manila Centers. A Manila dispatch says that the three officers implicated in frauds in the commissionary department less than three months ago have been tried, convicted, sentenced and put in prison. This is because they were tried by a court which is not transacted by the devices which usually impede the process of justice in civil criminal cases. The offenders were tried by a court-martial composed of more intelligent men, as a whole, than the court-martial of criminals in civil courts. The accused is allowed to have counsel, but his counsel is not permitted to waste time in arguing objections and in taking irrelevant testimony. The insanity dodge has no place in a civil court, the medical expert is not called. The one question considered concerns the guilt or innocence of the accused. To that end the investigation is directed, and with a fair lawyer for judge advocate and an interested court the facts are usually ascertained without delay and with a clearness that might be an example to the civil courts. When the testimony is in the verdict is rendered and the sentence pronounced, and the accused, if convicted, begins to work out the penalty as soon as the penalty is affirmed by the reviewing officer. The three officers accused of frauds in the Manila centers are now in prison under sentence. Suppose a man accused of defrauding the state or a county had been indicted three months ago in a civil court, would he now be working out his sentence?

The court-martial case which has attracted more attention for years was that of Captain Carter of the engineers, who was the leader in a conspiracy by which the United States was swindled out of \$1,500,000 or more. Because a year intervened between the end of his trial and the trial of his sentence a great howl was raised and an effort was made to get it into politics, but when the testimony was read and the sentence approved Captain Carter was sent to the Leavenworth military prison for years. In this connection it is stated that the great shadow which was in the conspiracy with Captain Carter have not yet been brought to trial. They have not been indicted, but for more than a year a controversy over the particular United States court which shall try them has prevented their trial. In another respect the result of a court-martial is attracted more attention for years was that of Captain Carter of the engineers, who was the leader in a conspiracy by which the United States was swindled out of \$1,500,000 or more.

Philadelphia Press: Emperor Kwang Tung frowned darkly. "The west, forthwith," sneered he. "How do I know that there is any west?" "Oh, yes," answered the other, "but any one can see he doesn't really amount to much. He has never been headed only twice in the past six months."

Washington Star: "He assumes a great deal of importance as a public official," said a "Thames" reporter. "Yes," answered the other, "but any one can see he doesn't really amount to much. He has never been headed only twice in the past six months."

Yonkers Statesman: Church-Lids you ever notice how happy a man looks after he has gotten outside of a good square mile?" "I have," answered the other, "but any one can see he doesn't really amount to much. He has never been headed only twice in the past six months."

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THE PORTO RICO CASES.

Cleveland Leader (rep.): The supreme court manifests a marked desire to conform to the will of the majority of the people in regard to great questions of national policy and growth.

Chicago Record-Herald (rep.): The decision of the court makes between "territory" and "territory appurtenant and belonging to the United States" is a nice one and big with all sorts of variations from the methods of government which we have given to territories of the United States.

Chicago Chronicle (dem.): The power of Congress will be conceded by many of our congressmen. They do not approve of the specific acts of congress in the exercise of that authority. The apparent intention that this power may be exercised without constitutional restraint is the feature which excites the new and dangerous doctrine in the present case.

Minneapolis Journal (rep.): Politics cannot be said to have deteriorated as the opinions of the supreme court on the question whether the constitution follows the flag. There are democrats and republicans on both sides of the Downes case—the case involving the power of congress to make special laws for "possessions."

St. Paul Pioneer Press (rep.): The decision is one of the most important ever rendered by the supreme court, for upon it depended, in a large degree, the destiny of our island possessions, and it is a subject for general popular rejoicing that it sustains the principle upon which their governments have been constituted consistently with their best welfare and that of the people of the United States.

Louisville Courier-Journal (dem.): The decision, no doubt, rescues the administration and congress from an awkward position and in that respect is welcomed by many. Nevertheless, it is a distinct innovation in our judicial system. The decision in support is an innovation in our legislation. The right of congress to legislate for new territories was not in controversy, but only the right to disregard the principle of uniformity of all duties, imposts and excises throughout the United States.

Chicago Journal (rep.): Such a jumble of reasoning as this is not to be commended. It has certainly never before found utterance on that great bench, and it is to be hoped never will again. Better, far better, that no reasons at all should be given for the conclusions arrived at than that such a confusion of logic should be presented to the members of the highest court in the land. The people will lose confidence in their judges when they discover them to be no better masters of judicial science than appears in these cases.

Minneapolis Times (ind.): The chief regret will be when one's individual opinion is in accord with the majority of the majority or the minority of the court—the decision was not more nearly unanimous. Chief Justice Fuller and Justices Harlan, Brewer and Peckham dissented in the Downes case and that fact certainly leaves the issue of the present case in doubt. It is to be hoped that the members of the highest court in the land will see that they are in rallying around a decision more conclusive and emphatic would have been more satisfactory to the public.

SMILING LINES. Detroit Free Press: "Do you believe the world's federation of clubs can be achieved?" "Oh, yes," I know woman; she'll keep on federating until there is nothing else left to federate."

Washington Star: "He assumes a great deal of importance as a public official," said a "Thames" reporter. "Yes," answered the other, "but any one can see he doesn't really amount to much. He has never been headed only twice in the past six months."

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