

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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It begins to look as if the market house were about to gain a lap on the auditorium. Every public officer who is exposed in the betrayal of his trust raises the cry of political persecution.

Omaha's first bad coasting accident of the season has been recorded. The annual injunction to coasters to be more careful should not be ignored.

Admiral Schley says he has no ambition for civil office, but he may change his mind, or allow it to be changed for him, by the time 1904 rolls around.

The state treasury will always be more or less in politics. But that is no reason why any state treasurer should make himself a candidate for the penitentiary.

Oklahoma thinks it can make the steeplechase better by going it alone than by hitching three abreast with Arizona and New Mexico. Every tub on its own bottom.

A British syndicate has acquired 90 per cent of the tobacco interests of Cuba. Here is another chance to help the poor Cubans by remitting the duty on tobacco for the benefit of the British pocketbook.

The subject of William Allen White's next literary dissection is former President Grover Cleveland. If it does not draw out at least a threat of suit for libel, it will not be considered a complete success.

STATE TREASURY IN POLITICS.

The indictment of former State Treasurer Meserve for the embezzlement of money paid as interest on the school funds in his custody while state treasurer is pronounced by the Omaha World-Herald an effort to inject the state treasury into politics.

Mr. Meserve has been indicted, and his conduct will be investigated in the court. Mr. Stuefer has not been indicted, but if the republican newspapers insist upon carrying the state treasury into politics, then the World-Herald insists that the republican administration, as well as the popular administration of that office, be held before the public eye.

When the republican state convention of 1901, by an almost unanimous vote, declared against executive clemency to Meserve, it gave expression to the sentiment of the rank and file of the party. Its position on that question has not been changed, whether its representatives in the state house comply or refuse to comply with its platform pledges.

If the republican state treasurer were guilty of the same practices for which Mr. Meserve has been indicted, that would afford no excuse or palliation for the conduct of Meserve. The failure of the Douglas county grand jury to indict Mr. Stuefer does not bar his prosecution in the Douglas county courts if the same proofs can be produced against him as were presented before the grand jury against Meserve.

The threat that the prosecution of Meserve will force the prosecution of Stuefer and carry the state treasury into politics will frighten nobody. The state treasury has been in politics for years. It was forced into politics when Joe Bartley was arrested and convicted for looting the treasury.

The people of Nebraska, regardless of party, have insisted and will continue to insist that every dollar of public money, whether derived from taxation, from the sale or lease of public lands, or from interest on securities or bank deposits, shall be accounted for and turned into the treasury. This is the law and every treasurer who violates the law does so knowing that he is betraying his trust and subjects himself to all the penalties imposed by the law.

As far as The Bee is concerned, it has made no distinction between republican treasurers and democratic or populist treasurers. If the World-Herald imagines it can serve its party by trying to defend Mr. Meserve it will find itself in just as bad light as it brought itself by its championship of the Bartley pardon.

AUSTIN CORBIN'S PROJECT REVIVED. The announcement is made that the Pennsylvania Railroad company contemplates the establishment of a steamship line between Montauk Point, Long Island, and Milford Haven in England. It is given out that the object of the new steamship enterprise is the development of the foreign coal trade.

The proposed steamship line between Montauk Point and Milford Haven is by no means a new project; it is in reality a revival of the long-cherished plan of the late Austin Corbin, who had planned a steamship line between these terminals with a view to reducing the distance of steamship travel across the Atlantic by selecting the shortest route between New York and London.

Mr. Corbin's design, which will doubtless be also the plan of the Pennsylvania railroad managers, was to establish a new transatlantic steamship line that would land mail and passengers eighteen hours sooner than they can reach their destination by existing routes. But Mr. Corbin also had in view the establishment of a free port modeled after the free ports of Germany, where international traffic could be carried on without the intervention of the custom house and where, under certain restrictions, American wares in demand in foreign countries could be manufactured for export.

The projected short cut between New York and London is far-reaching and may eventually result in a revolution of transatlantic passenger travel. Should the existing steamship lines find themselves distanced in the race for transatlantic traffic, they will be forced to seek new American terminals that bring them nearer to Southampton, Havre or Queenstown than they

WHERE IS THE DIFFERENCE?

A protest has been entered by Samuel Gompers as president of the American Federation of Labor against the proposed transfer of the Bureau of Labor from the Interior department to the Department of Commerce which is about to be created by congress.

When Bartley was up for trial the attorney general came to the assistance of County Attorney Baldrige, to make sure that the case was properly presented. In view of the fact that County Attorney Shields can hardly be expected to prosecute ex-Treasurer Meserve with even reasonable vigor, the present attorney general would be fully justified, for the protection of the state, in following his predecessor's example.

Among the various and sundry appropriations embodied in the urgent deficiency bill passed by the house of representatives last week is an allowance of \$30,000 to defray the expenses of the special committee of congress that accompanied the remains of President McKinley from Washington to Canton.

The chief justice of the Nebraska supreme court has taken certain lawyers severely to task for presuming to confuse the court with a reckless array of immaterial material in his briefs. But is a certain lecture sufficient penalty to be inflicted for this offense? When the lawyers complain because the court decisions are confusing they should be prosecuted for contributory negligence.

On taking the witness stand, Jim Hill announced that he had come to tell the Interstate Commerce commission anything its members wanted to know from him. And he forthwith put in three hours sparring with his inquisitors to respond to their questions without telling any more than he had to.

It seems absurd to apply the title "his excellency" to every man who happens to be elected governor.

The government that equipped the Spanish navy was the best friend the United States had during the war.

There seems to be a general impression that the Interior department has gone too far in ordering the noble red man not to paint his face. If it could prevent him from coming to the state with the certain liquor it can well afford to let his other features alone.

Australians is the hottest country on record. I have ridden for miles astride the equator, but I have never found it hotter in the dry times there appears to be little more than a sheet of brown paper between you and the lower regions, and the people facetiously say that they have to feed their hens on cracked ice to keep them from laying boiled eggs.

Every moment of Kaiser Wilhelm's brother's time will be occupied during his brief sojourn in this country next month, and it is to be trusted that his entertainment will be as pleasant and felicitous as the innocent occasion which renders it possible. However our hectic blatherers may blare, the populace will resolutely refuse to see in the forthcoming parade of fun and feathers anything more than a cordial welcome to a good fellow and a friendly representative of a foreign power.

Omaha's weakest spot is its lack of milling facilities, without which it cannot hope to become a grain market. This city is located in the heart of the most prolific grain-raising region of America and is as favorably situated for a great grain market as it is for a cattle and meat packing center. With correspondingly fair railroad rates Omaha would be just as good a grain market today as Kansas City, but so long as the railroads continue to favor syndicates that own and operate the elevators along their lines capitalists will fight shy of any investment in large grain elevators in Omaha.

There is, however, no serious obstacle in the way of the establishment of more extensive milling facilities. The difference between the cost of steam-power and water power no longer forms a barrier to a successful milling business. This applies with equal force to cereal mills as it does to flour mills. As a distributing center for provisions and grain products Omaha is not surpassed by any other western city.

TO RECALL THE DISCOVERY MADE JUST AFTER THE GRAND JURY DRAWING THAT TWO OF THE MEN WHO WERE EXCUSED FROM SERVING AS PERMANENTLY LOCATED IN THE CEMETERY AND TWO OF THE MEN DRAWN FOR GRAND JURY DUTY WERE WOMEN.

At a conference of colored Methodist preachers held in Mississippi last week Bishop Fowler took pains to admonish his hearers to leave out all the big words in the preparation of their sermons. We believe this would be good advice for white preachers as well as colored preachers and that sermons can as a rule be improved by cutting out the big words without regard to race, color or previous condition.

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The Secret Rebate

Chicago later Ocean. The Interstate Commerce commission's annual report calls sharp attention to the secret rebating of railway charges. Some of the destructive effects of this rebating may be briefly summarized from the commission's report.

Large producers, such as the great packers of Chicago, Omaha and Kansas City, are given lower rates than their smaller competitors. Thus the latter are driven out of business, and owing to the lack of competition, stockgrowers must take lower prices, while consumers of meats must pay higher prices.

Favored grain buyers are given a practical monopoly of the trade over vast areas. Thus the farmer must take less for his grain and the miller and consumer must pay more for grain and flour. Furthermore, lower rates are charged on grain for export than on grain for domestic use.

These are merely two illustrations out of hundreds of the rebate evil. They are not only violations of the statute law, but they are also violations of the principles of fair trade. The Interstate Commerce commission is doing its best to put a stop to this practice, but it is a long and hard fight.

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'ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. The new living hospital at Second avenue and Seventeenth street, built and furnished throughout by J. Pierpont Morgan, is declared to be the best appointed institution of its class in existence.

Some years ago a railway manager, still head of a western road, advanced the idea that transportation is not a commodity which buyers may take or leave, but a necessity the payment for which is the same as the payment of a tax to support the police and the courts, and that there is no more justice in charging the small buyer more than the large buyer than there would be in charging the poor a higher rate of custom than the small.

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