

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$6.00...

AND STILL THE BATTLE RAGES.

An eminent lawyer-politician inspired with an insatiable appetite to keep his name prominently before the people; a sad, solemn, melancholy editor who achieved renown by breathing the breath of political life into brilliant Billy Bray...

"These truces are self-evident," exclaims the Jeffersonian editor, "and so are the ten commandments," retorts the Websterian gladiator, and thus with boisterous fury the battle is waged interminably from day to day.

St. Augustine is reputed to have spent three years in deep meditation over the question of "how many angels can stand on the point of a needle?" And it would doubtless take three times three years to explore the unthinkable region of the wherefore and whereas and reach a definite settlement of the question as to whether or not the immortal phrase "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" was intended to apply to the man with the almond eye and to the man with kinky hair, as well as to the man who parts his hair in the middle.

That stage of the heart-burning discussion has, however, not yet been reached. It will take several double-shotted and double-column editorials, several more essays before the Nebraska Bar association, and several more kegs of printer's ink to convey us beyond the one great and all-absorbing issue whether these truces are self-evident that all men are created equal and that governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

While this furious verbal battle is raging the peacefully inclined and liberty-loving people of the Missouri valley are looking on with bated breath momentarily expecting the annihilation of each of the furious combatants.

LEASING THE GRAZING LANDS.

H. F. McIntosh, editor of the Nebraska Farmer, has presented a strong plea in favor of the proposed leasing of the public domain in the semi-arid regions in the interest of the cattle industry. While he does not venture absolutely to endorse the Bowersock bill, Mr. McIntosh attempts to brush aside the objections raised by asking "whether the people, in view of existing conditions, shall consume time quibbling over details of law before they decide on the principle of administration of the public lands."

Conceding all that Mr. McIntosh says about the menace to the cattle industry by reason of the irresistible invasion of the sheep flocks, the vulnerable point in the Bowersock bill and the whole leasing system is not so much the low rental as it is the attempt to evade local taxation. State Senator Currie, who is thoroughly familiar with the conditions under which cattle raising is carried on west of the hundredth meridian, is quoted as saying:

The bill now pending in congress which provides for the leasing of government lands in western states is a step in the right direction. There is one feature in the measure, however, that may meet with some opposition. It is the lack of provision for taxation of land leased under the act. In some of the counties 90 per cent of the land belongs to the government. This throws the burden of taxation on the owners of the other property, which is unfair. If some way can be provided by which the leases can be taxed the measure ought to meet with very general approval.

ment of the sheep herder upon the cowboy and cattle ranchman may be true, but it should be borne in mind that the marked growth of the sheep industry is not altogether an unmixed evil. The average Britisher has long ago ceased to be as much a beef-eater as a mutton-eater, and the British farmer profits as much, if not more, from raising high bred cattle than he does from raising high bred sheep.

Quite apart, however, from the irremediable conflict between the bull-whecker and the sheep herder, the proposed new departure in the administration of the public domain involves another serious question, and that is the menace of land monopoly, against which every precaution should be taken in the enactment of any bill that congress may formulate.

Millions of acres west of the hundredth meridian now used for grazing may eventually be converted into fruit orchards or cultivated for agricultural purposes by means of irrigation. For the preservation of these lands from permanent occupancy as cattle ranges some provision must be made at the outset before the system of land tenure west of the hundredth principal meridian is revolutionized by act of congress.

A BEGGARS' TRUST.

Indianapolis charity associations have discovered a regularly organized beggars' trust, which, it is believed, has its ramifications in the various cities of the country. The secretary of the Indianapolis Associated Charities had his attention called some time ago to the marked increase in the number of house-to-house and street beggars, and a little investigation convinced him that mendicants were being brought to the city and after working for a while were transferred to other cities and their places filled by new men and boys under a regular system. Police officials detailed to investigate the movements of the professional mendicants discovered in due time that the beggars had a perfect organization with central headquarters where every professional reported and received instructions. A raid made upon the quarters of the mendicant chief resulted in the capture of a carefully prepared list of residences of a large number of citizens, with maps exhibiting a division of the city into sections which were regularly allotted to certain persons under specific instructions. It also transpired that the beggars' trust is organized on the community-of-interest plan with a view to the greatest economy in leg and lung power and the most perfect distribution of the spoils collected among the members entitled to a share of the proceeds. In the matter of fixed charges, however, the beggars' trust has gone even beyond the ingenious over-capitalization system of the merger lines; it has exacted from each individual who is allowed to participate in the dividends an initiation fee and periodic specific contributions to defray the general expenses for maintenance and operation.

The beggars' trust, like all other trusts, is very much distressed by the fear of publicity and governmental supervision. Its officers and members have an instinctive dread of the searchlight which the press is able to turn upon their confidential operations. These discoveries only go to show that the day of the trust is upon us and combination even among the beggars affords the only sure path to success and wealth.

A Commendable Act.

It is cause for national pride that our government has returned to the Chinese government the sum of \$376,000, which was seized in violation of the act of Ten-Ten by American marines. The act is all the more praiseworthy because it is a confession that American marines joined in the looting of the city. The humiliation, however, is distinctly overbalanced by the moral courage of the act of restitution.

The Home Guard Fails.

Pulls must be powerful in the War department, since Secretary Root can find no way to resist those exerted on behalf of officers who wish soft places in the "home battalions" except by abolishing the battalions. His frank acknowledgment of this fact, supported as it is by his order to discontinue the system, more than confirms all that has been said about the influence of politicians in the military branch of the government.

TO DISCOURAGE POKER.

One State College Frowns Upon the Festive Game. Milwaukee Sentinel. The rumor that some of the students at the University of Wisconsin had substituted poker for foot ball will interest parents who are worrying over the dangers incurred from too much brain work on the part of ambitious sons. It is said that the athletes that have won the apples of the eye in the school of sports are in drawing a royal flush or a full house. The jackpot has lured youths from their books, if the testimony of prying landladies is to be believed. The midnight gas is being burned while small and select parties bet their quarterly allowances on the turn of a card.

The faculty is an edict, the gossips say, that will cause a premature discontinuation of the quiet little game. It has been hinted in significant tones that poker has no place on the athletic, scientific and classical courses of the famous seat of learning. If a young man plays the festive game he forfeits his presidency in the American game at some other institution.

This is as it should be. College students who intend to fit themselves for millionaires or famous politicians can find opportunities to learn the difference between the value of a dollar and the value of a penny by having taken their degrees. The real need of a knowledge of poker will not be discovered in the beginning of the bright and promising careers that all young men are supposed to have before them when they leave college. It is only when fortune pokes her hand into two pairs that they need to know the necessity of learning how to play poker. It is admitted that no self-respecting millionaire can cross the ocean with any degree of ease unless he is able to take a hand in a big game, and what would a famous politician be if he could not employ his moments of relaxation in losing some of his money upon an "short" hand?

thing like the great steel corporation might help them out. The Germans need not be long finding out the prescription for an American combination. It is 40 per cent actual capitalization and 60 per cent water; make the 40 per cent preferred stock retained by the promoters and then unload the water on an unsuspecting public at par or any price it will bring.

The forced mid-winter vacation of the High school to prepare for occupancy of the new building with the opening of the new term is said to be decidedly distasteful to the High school teachers, in view of the fact that the present intimation is to take the place of the usual spring vacation. The school board really ought to place regard for the wishes of the teachers rather above consideration for the comfort and progress of the pupils. If worse comes to worst, the teachers should insist upon the privilege of fixing their own vacations, to make sure that their convenience is consulted.

The outgoing pastor of one of our churches has taken advantage of the moment which leaves him free to express his real opinion of some of his parishioners to read them a lecture that doubtless touches the vital part. It is to be regretted that our preachers for the most part are so dependent upon the favor of individual members of their congregations that they do not dare come out with the salutary advice that occasions frequently call for. The slavery of the pulpit is realized only by those who occupy it.

Cold Comfort All Around.

Kansas City Journal. David B. Hill's advice to democrats to skate slow should not be taken literally. There is no ice on Salt river.

Scratching the Teeth.

Saturday Evening Post. The British War office realizes that it must supply false teeth for the soldiers in the South Africa. This is in western parlance, is a striking admission that the British army has bit off more than it can chew.

Thrift, Horatio, Thrift.

Baltimore American. Nebraska pays a bounty on the scalps of wolves and the guileless farmers raise the animals and collect the bounty. Evidently the standard of good citizenship is not among the crops raised on the Nebraska farms.

A Coincidence.

Philadelphia Record. It was a mere coincidence that on the day the Steel trust announced its profits for nine months as \$44,000,000 the census bureau announced the population of the United States and their possessions as 84,000,000 souls. The trust did not fix on a dollar a head as its profit.

The Homestead Idea.

Minneapolis Journal. Secretary Root's recommendation that a homestead law should be enacted for the Philippines is a good one. There are great areas of public land in those islands, but no arrangement whereby either a native or an American can get title to any part of them. The homestead idea is an American idea that ought to work well, even in the Orient.

A Commendable Act.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican. It is cause for national pride that our government has returned to the Chinese government the sum of \$376,000, which was seized in violation of the act of Ten-Ten by American marines. The act is all the more praiseworthy because it is a confession that American marines joined in the looting of the city. The humiliation, however, is distinctly overbalanced by the moral courage of the act of restitution.

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BRIEF BITS OF STATE POLITICS.

Kearney Hub (rep.): The rumor that Frank Ransom of Omaha will take a turn for the fustian nomination for governor has not created any amount of shucks were he not pushing it along. Minnesota Journal: Mr. Hill's interview with the Interstate Commerce commission suggests the idea that if the supreme court decides to take jurisdiction in the Northern Securities case and appoints a commissioner to take testimony, a skillful attorney ought to be able to develop some very interesting facts in examining the president of the Northern Securities company.

Cincinnati Enquirer: The remark of James J. Hill that competition does not tend to lower railroad rates is not accompanied by the diagram which the average citizen will require to comprehend the force of the observation, and though Mr. Hill is probably very correct, it is doubtful if there is enough confidence in him to prompt the public to take the statement in faith. There have been plenty of men who could figure victory out of defeat at an election, but that is a matter of arithmetic and not of railroads and prices.

Detroit Free Press: The truth is that President Hill has been identified with some of those railroad ventures of the west that anticipated future development. They almost justified the exaggeration of Proctor Knott when he said that they were built where the eye of God never saw and the foot of man never trod. Two or more lines are built in a territory, either of them could have met the demands for transportation. They aimed to pay dividends, meet the interest on their securities and lay by a surplus for redemption purposes. This was made impossible by genuine competition in a restricted field. Combination for a restricted alternative, and it is an easy matter for men of sophistry to make the worse seem the better case, but no one knows better than Mr. Hill that his contention is buncombe in an economic sense.

PERSONAL NOTES.

President Schwab was willing to chat with Francis Joseph of Austria, because he felt sure the emperor would not pester him for a job. Since Mrs. Carrie Nation's husband secured his freedom he seems to be sowing seeds of the entire population of frostbitten air in his season of life. Henry Watterston is a fairly good musician, and it was at one time a serious question with him as to whether he should take up music or journalism as a profession. "Dan" Emmett, who wrote the popular negro melody, "Dixie," which served frequently as a rallying song in the civil war, is living, the age of 87, in a little cottage near Mansfield, O.

A movement has been started in Toledo, O., to erect a monument to the late Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite. It is proposed to erect the monument on the battlefield of Fort Meigs, near Toledo. Dr. R. B. Hoyt, former member of the Detroit Board of Education, says that at the present rate of increase of insanity in this country the entire population will be crazy in less than 200 years. The German emperor has consented to the erection of a statue in front of the Berlin university by the late Professor von Trieschke, the historian, who by his indiscriminate admirers has been called the "Macauley of Germany."

SIGNS OF CONFIDENCE.

No Reason to Doubt the Continuance of Prosperity. Philadelphia North American. Men who own and control railroads, as well as those who draw from the public and furnish to the corporations the vast sums of money necessary for construction and maintenance, take measures to keep themselves well informed as to the outlook for business. If the signs are well defined indications of continuing prosperity and increasing traffic they are ready to engage in extensions of their lines and in furnishing extended facilities. If, on the contrary, they see signs of financial stress ahead, betterments are postponed and expenses cut down wherever possible. Their channels of information so far as they are concerned the country and all classes of trade that they represent are in a state of depression.

Other indications are found in the comparatively steady, though slow, advance in wages in various lines of industry. It is gratifying to see that in many instances the concession is a voluntary one on the part of the employer, and even where it is given only in response to a demand on the part of the workers the change is made with but little apparent friction.

YOUTHFUL SPIRIT MELLOWES AGE.

Years Do Not Count if the Feeling of Youth Remains. February Success. People grow old by thinking themselves old. When they reach the age of 40, 50 or 60, they imagine that they look like others of the same age, and that they soon will be useless, unfit for work and unable to perform their varied duties. As surely as they think this it will come true, for they have taken their degree. The real need of a knowledge of poker will not be discovered in the beginning of the bright and promising careers that all young men are supposed to have before them when they leave college. It is only when fortune pokes her hand into two pairs that they need to know the necessity of learning how to play poker. It is admitted that no self-respecting millionaire can cross the ocean with any degree of ease unless he is able to take a hand in a big game, and what would a famous politician be if he could not employ his moments of relaxation in losing some of his money upon an "short" hand?

JIM HILL'S TALK.

Chicago Record-Herald: "Jim" Hill candidly admits that the great northwest wouldn't amount to shucks were he not pushing it along. Minnesota Journal: Mr. Hill's interview with the Interstate Commerce commission suggests the idea that if the supreme court decides to take jurisdiction in the Northern Securities case and appoints a commissioner to take testimony, a skillful attorney ought to be able to develop some very interesting facts in examining the president of the Northern Securities company.

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PLIGHT OF SUBSIDY GRABBERS.

Most Unlucky Combine of Ocean Steamship Lines. Philadelphia North American. It makes no essential difference what name is affixed to the alliance of the Atlantic steamship lines, whether it be designated "merger," or a "trust," or a "consolidation," or a "pool," or a "community of interest arrangement," its purpose is to put an end to open competition in the ocean carrying trade. Whether the parties to the agreement continue as separate concerns, each taking all the business it can secure, and make a pro rata settlement at the end of the year, or whether they place themselves under a central management and operate as branches of one company, is chiefly a matter of form. A compact either as to freight rates or division of earnings is calculated to have the same general effect. It will do away with competition as it now exists, and render future competition by outsiders unprofitable, if not impracticable.

Viewed from any standpoint, this international steamship alliance defeats the alleged purpose of the ship subsidy promoters in the United States. They can no longer maintain even the appearance of honesty when they beg congress for bounties to aid them, as they have said, in building up a merchant marine with which to drive other nations out of our foreign trade. By their own acts they have refuted their own arguments. Instead of promoting competition on the ocean by Americans, as has been their professed ambition, they prove by their present policy that they no longer think it desirable or necessary.

If the ship subsidy scheme survives the blow it has received at the hands of its old friends its defenders will have to readjust their arguments. Henceforth they must discard high-sounding appeals to patriotism, pleas of poverty and promises of fleets to be built and candidly admit that they are "after the money" and that they propose to get it if they can line up congress.

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Advertisement for Ayer's Hair Vigor. Includes text: "If You Don't, You Will" and "Use Ayer's Hair Vigor. It gives nourishment and strength to the weakened hair-bulbs, and makes the hair grow heavy and long." Also features an illustration of a woman's head and shoulders.