

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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

THE CANAL PROBLEM.

A compromise isthmian canal bill will be presented to the senate at an early day as a substitute for the Nicaragua canal bill reported by Congress...

While the land-leasing policy may prove of great advantage in the region that is hopelessly sterile without irrigation, it is a serious question whether it would materially benefit the semi-arid grazing section of Nebraska...

These Colombians should make better progress in settling their trouble. By the time the United States gets ready to dig the canal laborers will be scarce there at the present rate they are being killed off in the reports of battles.

Time Modifies the Chip. Philadelphia Press. The order to the Indians to get their hair cut ought not to be complained of. It is a very decided modification of the methods pursued by the Indians when they were accustomed to go after the white man's hair.

Where There's a Will There's a Way. Indianapolis News. Denmark, it is said, will leave the question of the cessation of its islands to a vote of their people. It will not cede the land to us unless we will see that the people come in. If the worst came to the worst we could assimilate the people by benevolent means.

A Wise Decision. Indianapolis Journal. The decision of the senate committee to make a full investigation of the Philippine situation is wise. It will forestall efforts to order special investigations for political purposes and will place congress in possession of facts which are needed for intelligent legislation.

Encouraging Official Dishonesty. San Francisco Chronicle. The recently pardoned and treasurer of Nebraska has served only four and one-half years of his term for looting the state treasury out of \$550,000. As none of the money has been recovered, it may be assumed that his term of incarceration repaid to the equivalent of an annual salary of \$12,222. The pardon may thus be fairly construed as encouraging dishonesty in public office.

SAFETY OF PASSENGERS.

Nebraska Law Sustained by the Federal Supreme Court. Chicago Post. In an opinion of the United States supreme court, recently delivered by Justice McKenna, the Nebraska statute which was enacted to make railway companies insurers of the safe transportation of their passengers is fully sustained. The case was an appeal from the opinion of the supreme court of Nebraska, taken by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway company...

The effort now being made at Washington under the inspiration of the Department of Agriculture, to convert the Nebraska sand hills into a forest reserve is highly commendable. Experimental forestry conducted in the Adirondacks by the Cornell School of Forestry has proved very satisfactory and there is no good reason why scientific forestry carried on under the directions of the Department of Agriculture should not prove as great a success as has been achieved in European countries under similar conditions.

Governor Savage deserves credit for exhibiting wisdom as well as discretion in declining to pull chestnuts out of the fire for parties who were ambitious to serve on the Omaha fire and police commission. Governor Poynter allowed himself to be uncoined into the trap which Governor Savage has shrewdly avoided.

While there is a general demand for a reduced tax levy, there is also a demand by the jobbing interests and fire insurance companies for increased fire-fighting facilities that will involve an outlay

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Etchings of Men and Events at the National Capital. "We are trying very hard to change the title by which natives of Nebraska are known," said Mr. E. E. Gillespie of Lincoln, Neb., to the Washington Post. "As you probably know, the people who are fortunate enough to have been born in our state are called 'Bug Eaters.' The new title we are trying to assume is 'Tree Planters.' The latter is gaining a little foothold out among the people who know Nebraska and appreciate her, but down here it's still 'Bug Eater.'"

"By the way," continued Mr. Gillespie, "did you ever hear how we got that title? That's a good story. Of course, you know we have a terrible plague of grasshoppers in Nebraska in the '90's. They ate up everything from the cattle to rail fences—and that's no dream, either. A correspondent of an eastern paper was touring the west and happened to cross the state during the plague. He saw nothing but grasshoppers, and concluded that people must live on them. In writing back to his paper he referred to the natives as 'Bug Eaters,' and 'Bug Eaters' we have been ever since."

"I don't exaggerate one bit—and any one who was out there at the time will confirm me—when I say that the grasshoppers were so thick that when they passed over a community it seemed like a total eclipse of the sun. You could look at a field of several hundred acres of corn standing as high as the head of a man on horseback and almost see it disappear. A swarm of millions and millions of grasshoppers would alight on it, and in two hours the field would be eaten clean to the stalks' roots. There were several instances of cattle being attacked and killed, and I know of one or two communities where railroad ties and rail fences suffered."

"That was a good while ago," said Mr. Gillespie, in conclusion. "We have driven out all the grasshoppers now into the neighboring states. Just at present Nebraska is an agricultural state and the greatest member of the union."

"I do not approve the name of 'Bug Eaters' which I see applied to my neighbors in Nebraska," said Representative Calderhead of Kansas. "It is a strange name. I wonder if the man who uses it isn't mistaken," added this veteran from the realm of Jayhawkers. "I will go over and ask Mr. Stark, who is the original populist of Nebraska, if that name of 'Bug Eater' is not a misnomer."

Fortwith Judge Calderhead crossed the center aisle into the enemy's country and addressed the party stark. "The name is applied to us sometimes in the east," answered Mr. Stark frankly. "I don't mind many years ago in a peculiar way, incident to a speech. Back in 1874 a swarm of grasshoppers descended upon our fair state and despoiled everything. Crops were swept away before the first army of insects and the people were left destitute. An appeal went up for aid and some of our best Nebraska citizens journeyed east to plead our cause. One of these eloquent citizens in a flight of speech declared that the voracious grasshoppers had even eaten the tires of wagon wheels and were devouring the railroad tracks. 'Why, our people have nothing but grasshoppers and bugs,' was the climax of this orator's speech," exclaimed Mr. Stark.

"And now you have the history of the sobriquet of 'Bug Eaters,'" concluded Mr. Stark.

"I wanted to see the president about an important postoffice in my district," says a New England congressman in the Boston Transcript. "I had not bothered him much up to that time; so I telephoned Mr. Cortelyou, and received an appointment. I was ushered into the president's reception room. Many other people were there; we could hear the president talking with some one in the cabinet room, and while it would have been impossible to follow the conversation, the tones were strong enough to indicate a vigorous discussion. Pretty soon the door from the cabinet room opened and in came the president. I am not going to see any of these people except Senator Baird—not any of them—I am too busy; I cannot do it," said the president to Secretary Cortelyou with considerable emphasis. Suiting the action to the word, he took Senator Baird over into the window and had a considerable talk with him. Mr. Cortelyou beckoned for me to stay, and the president, as soon as he was through with Mr. Baird, came over and sat on the sofa beside me. When I mentioned my postoffice case, he told me to go down to the department and see the matter with the postmaster general, with the air of one who was tired about hearing of postoffices.

"As I got up to go he looked over to two young men who were still waiting. 'You are from Alabama, aren't you?' he asked, and before they had time to answer, he added, 'You want Senator So-and-so. The young men replied that they did, but before they could explain why, the president told them that he was sick of hearing of their patronage squabble. 'You say the other candidate for this office ought to be put in writing,' he said. 'Yes, sir, he ought to be there,' was the reply. 'Well, now,' said the president, 'his friends assure me that your man ought to be in jail. I assume that you are both right. I wish you would go to the attorney general and put in writing your reasons. You have been leaving that the other candidate should be put to the penitentiary, and I will have a similar statement made up in regard to your candidate, then we'll let the attorney general look them both over and decide what is to be done. Perhaps, if you know anything good about the man you are backing, you had better put that in writing, too, and give it to the attorney general.' That was all I stayed to hear, but it struck me as characteristic."

PERSONAL NOTES.

Hobson appears to regard his courage as a commercial asset. President Schwab was willing to chat with Francis Joseph of Austria, because he felt sure the emperor would not pester him for a job. The success of the St. Louis show will be assured if the management can guarantee a few earthquakes during the summer of 1902.

The Mississippi catfish must be on their guard when Santos-Dumont goes to St. Louis. His balloon has already killed all the fish in the Bay of Monaco. The Marquis Viscount Venosta of Italy has declined the decoration sent to him by the Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia, on the ground that it was "stained by Italian blood."

An Iowa doctor advises drinking melted lead in milk or taking a small dose of whiskey as a preventive of smallpox. The good doctor seems to be giving a professional intimation that it is well to be "half shot."

Lieutenant General Sir Henry Le Guay Geary is the new governor of Bermuda. His name is familiar to students of the Crimean period, especially in relation to Sebastopol, where his brilliant work won him special mention in dispatches.

Earl Currie of Louisville, Ky., by reason of his efforts to promote trade relations between Denmark and the United States, has been knighted by King Christian IX. He will hereafter be a "Knight of Donerberg," one of the most ancient and honorable orders of knighthood of Europe.

Thomas M. Patterson, the new senator from Colorado, at one time was a circus manager, being associated with two other young men from his home city, Crawfordville, Ind. He was born in County Carlow, Ireland, in 1840, and moved with his parents to Crawfordville when he was 13 years old.

Frederick MacMonnies, the distinguished Brooklyn sculptor, arrived home last week after a prolonged absence in Europe. He will locate in Brooklyn, and says that he "lived in France seventeen years as a student and as a practicing sculptor, because I thought it was necessary and best for my work."

Some of the New York papers notice that the crowd of people to bid goodby to Richard Croker when he sailed for England last Wednesday was very much smaller than on former occasions of the same kind, and the "floral tributes" which have always been a feature of these sailings were insignificant.

When Representative Bartholdt of St. Louis went abroad recently he was given an audience by the kaiser. He introduced himself as a German-American. "I don't know you, then," the kaiser is said to have replied. "If you are an American you are not my subject, and if a German you are. I do not recognize German-Americans."

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BOQUET OF SMILES. Philadelphia Press: "So, you've been through our big show manufactory, eh? What did you think of all that modern machinery?" "It certainly does beat aw!"

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