

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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It is to be noted that Senator Jones of Arkansas is on his way to Washington, having left Hope behind him.

Another good omen for Omaha is to be seen in the activity of the paving contractors at the beginning rather than at the end of the season.

The price of meat has been screwed up a few notches with the conclusion of Lent, but nothing prevents people from getting even by continuing their Lenten diet.

It doesn't take much of a prophet to predict that the next chairman of the democratic national committee will not respond to the name of Jones nor hall from Arkansas.

The railroad community of interest should not be allowed to interfere with the renewal of the annual rivalry between east and west for the summer tourist business.

Republicans regain the executive management of Council Bluffs' municipal government after two terms of a democratic mayor. Council Bluffs people are to be congratulated.

With two such noted humorists as ex-Speaker Thomas B. Reed and Mark Twain visiting Cuba at the same time, our southern neighbors ought to be enjoying a hilarious time.

The decree for the impending French general election fixes election day for Sunday, April 27. Just imagine the outcry if an American election were called for a Sunday.

Predictions are made that the tax mandamus case before Referee Judge Ryan will close Thursday. Can it be possible the lawyers engaged in that protracted word battle are running out of wind?

Let Denmark decide first whether it wants to sell its West Indian possessions and settle afterward with the middlemen who have been trying to gouge out a slice of the cash consideration.

Henry Watterson has now discovered that the whole republican party is made up of men on horseback. The exuberant Kentucky colonel should change without delay from the balloon to the parachute.

In the discussion why beef has gone up, do not overlook the fact that it takes more beef to feed prosperous workmen insisting on three square meals a day than it used to require when labor was idle or on half time and eating only enough to live.

Of course as interpreted by popocratic organs every municipal election contest carried by republicans turned on purely local or personal issues, while every one in which republican candidates met defeat attests the popular aversion to republican principles and policies.

The Interstate Commerce commission threatens to enforce the law that prohibits railroads from granting rebates to favored shippers, but such threats do not seem to frighten the traffic managers. The commission should either proceed to enforce the law or stop threatening.

A plea comes for government aid for destitute natives in the Nome gold district, where the usual food supply from the fish catch has failed and the resources of the miners to relieve distress have been exhausted. But the same tempting allurements for a new crop of gold seekers will be held out as soon as the navigation companies get ready for the next installment of Alaskan traffic.

RAILWAY PROBLEM CAUSING ANXIETY.

According to Washington dispatches railway men who have been at the national capital since the proceedings instituted by the Interstate Commerce commission have expressed gloomy views of the situation and manifested a good deal of anxiety as to what may be the result of the commission's course. It seems that the railway managers generally had thought that the agitation regarding rate cutting and rebates was merely sporadic and would soon die out, but now that they see it is the purpose of the authorities to enforce the law they are apprehensive of the consequences.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce says: "That an unexpected crisis in the railway world is at hand is felt by every one in Washington who has investigated the situation and who realizes the elements of disorder which are now rapidly gathering. It may be taken for granted that legislation of some sort altering the present contradictory provisions of the anti-trust law and the interstate commerce act can be the only possible outcome. Such legislation cannot be passed without corresponding enlargement of the powers of the Interstate Commerce commission." This is what the railroads fear and yet if the statements some of them have made that they really desire to conform to the law is genuine it is not easy to understand why the course of the commission should cause them any anxiety, or why they should object to legislation for making the interstate commerce act more effective. The larger railway companies assert that the smaller lines are responsible for rate cutting and imply that but for them the practice would not exist. The larger roads intimate that they are opposed to cutting rates and paying rebates. Why, then, do they object to legislation for preventing these abuses? Solicitude for the welfare of the smaller roads is not a satisfactory explanation, though this has been urged.

Meanwhile it is announced to be the intention of the commission to employ every means within its power to secure an absolute observance of the law. It does not propose, it is said, to cease operations looking to the enforcement of the law, pending judicial decisions on the injunction suits that have been brought. The commission is now prosecuting an investigation to ascertain if the law is being violated, as is alleged to be the case, and undoubtedly the investigation will be thorough, for the commission knows that it has the support of the authorities at Washington and also that its course is sustained by public opinion.

There does not seem to be any sound reason for anxiety in railway circles in regard to the course of the commission. If the railroads will comply with the law instead of persistently violating it they will not be troubled, while the demand for additional legislation would perhaps disappear.

OUTLOOK FOR CONSULAR REFORM.

Representative Adams who has a bill providing for reform in the consular service, does not regard the prospect as bright for such legislation at the present session of congress. There is strong opposition to it on the part of the spoilsmen, of course, but possibly this could be overcome if the business interests of the country would exert themselves properly in behalf of the measure. It is pointed out that while it is all very well to pass resolutions, as most of the business organizations have done, approving of consular reform, these well-meant efforts have little or no effect on congressmen generally. It is necessary that they should be subjected to the spur of direct personal letters from constituents.

Senator Lodge also has a measure for consular reform and he is most earnestly in favor of such legislation, but he has not yet pressed the subject upon the attention of the senate, though he may do so later on. The two bills differ in details, though the purpose of both is the same. Congress ought to pass one of these measures at the present session. Reform in the consular service is perhaps less imperatively needed now than it was twenty years ago, since which time the service has been very greatly improved, but the reform proposed, which would divorce the service from politics and place it upon a basis that would insure greater efficiency and usefulness, is still most desirable.

OVERCAPITALIZATION DANGEROUS.

That there is danger in the overcapitalization now so general is well understood and it is therefore somewhat surprising that the corporations which are known to be largely overcapitalized are able to readily market their securities. It would seem that investors would avoid the stocks of such corporations, but so long as dividends are paid, whether earned or not, most people having money will not trouble themselves about the matter of overcapitalization, even though they may understand its dangers.

At present the conditions are favorable to the overcapitalized industries. They are doing a large business at fair profits, some of them indeed finding it difficult to keep up with the actual demand for consumption. While this continues the question of capitalization will not be seriously considered. But let depression come and the dangers of overcapitalization will be painfully realized. As the New York Journal of Commerce correctly observes, overcapitalization is a direct invitation to losses sooner or later and losses, if sufficiently general, check business, impair confidence, curtail credit and through a complicated credit system sometimes cause disastrous results at a long distance from the point where the trouble began. "The practice," says that paper, "of capitalizing the possibilities of the future, the interests of the promoter and the ignorance of the investor or speculator,

of issuing preferred stocks in excess of the value of the properties and common stocks in volume depending simply upon the disposition of the public to absorb them, or of covering the value of the business with a mortgage and adding large volumes of preferred and common stocks as a bonus to the bondholders, is pretty certain to result in loss." It would seem that such must be the inevitable result.

Manifestly there should be legislation to prevent overcapitalization of stock companies and another means of protecting the public is to require of all such companies reasonable publicity in regard to their affairs. There appears to be, however, a good deal of indifference respecting this matter and perhaps nothing will be done until there is a crash so severe as to arouse interest in the question.

TWO ARRANT DEMAGOGUES.

At the closing democratic rally at South Omaha speeches were delivered by Gilbert M. Hitchcock and Constantine J. Smyth. According to the World-Herald, Mr. Hitchcock asserted that he had not come from Omaha to discuss the personal side of the campaign, because he knew little of the personality of the candidates, but it was enough for him to know that the democrats had selected Mr. Loebner for their standard bearer. From the very reasonable reports that had reached him, he declared, there was an effort being made to annex South Omaha to the Omaha machine and ventured to assert that the South Omaha democrats are not content with compulsory annexation to such a corrupt machine as was behind the republican candidates in this contest.

"Reasonable reports" indeed. Just about as reasonable as was Mr. Hitchcock's assertion that he knew nothing about the personality of the candidates. Perhaps Mr. Hitchcock had never heard of the uprising of the South Omaha taxpayers against boodlerism in the management of their public schools. Perhaps he had never heard of the indictment of the man chosen by the democrats to head their city ticket. But he did hear about the pretended attempt to annex South Omaha to an alleged corrupt Omaha machine. He had never heard, of course, about the rottenness machine in all Nebraska that was overthrown by South Omaha republicans at their primaries when they repudiated Mayor Kelly and turned down Kellyism. For a man of his calibre it was easy to close his eyes upon the festering cancer that had been gnawing at the vitals of South Omaha and was trying to continue its deadly grip, but it was reasonable to believe that the corrupt Omaha machine was linked in with the reform element of South Omaha that was seeking to purge South Omaha. Was it not also just as reasonable to assume that Omaha republicans are anxious to bring about the annexation of South Omaha as a partisan measure in the face of the fact that South Omaha is a democratic stronghold, with from 600 to 900 majority?

A still more rank exhibition of political demagoguery was the speech of Constantine J. Smyth, who likes to pose as a great reformer. According to the World-Herald, Mr. Smyth devoted much time to making plain to hearers the consequences which would arise from the enthronement of the corrupt machine, which he declared would rule South Omaha with a high hand if it ever gained a foothold there. Continuing, Smyth is reported to have said:

This so-called machine is well understood by almost everyone. It is the curse of Omaha, and is backed by the most infamous men and the most corrupt influences available. As it now is and has been the curse of Omaha for several years, so also will it be the curse of South Omaha if you let it have control here.

Continuing, Mr. Smyth bitterly arraigned the late grand jury and paid his compliments to the judge who was responsible for it, and who, he declared, was the worst ever on the bench, adding:

I have heard many say that they regarded an indictment by that grand jury as a compliment rather than a condemnation. This jury, with an anxious public witnessing the commission of crime on all sides and hoping for justice from the jury, simply turned a deaf ear to the gambling, jury-bribing and other crimes known to be transpiring, and came to South Omaha to find a man who was about to enter the campaign for mayor.

The curse of Omaha consists in just such arrant demagogues and sham reformers as C. J. Smyth. Who are the infamous men he had in view and what positive knowledge has he of corruption in the city government of Omaha? Has the city treasury been looted by anybody connected with the present city government? Have any public funds in the city treasury been farmed out for private gain? Does he know of any city officer who has defrauded the city, or levied blackmail upon anybody? Does he know of any city officer who has accepted bribes from anybody? If so, why has he not placed the facts in the hands of the democratic county attorney and insisted upon the prosecution of the offenders? If Smyth has been shocked by the alleged corruption of the Omaha city government, why has his conscience never been disturbed over the notorious and admitted organized band of boodlers and blackmailers that has preyed upon the taxpayers of South Omaha and held up almost every interest dependent upon municipal favor or subject to police supervision in South Omaha?

If anything, more despicable than this arrant partisan demagoguery is Smyth's arraignment of the grand jury and Judge Baker. The grand jury was convened in November and adjourned in January. Could Smyth pretend that the indictments found against members of the South Omaha school board were aimed at the candidate for mayor whom the democrats nominated in March? Was the South Omaha Taxpayers' league, at whose instance the indictments were brought, in collusion with the Omaha machine? Did not Smyth willfully and deliberately falsify the facts when he asserted that the grand

jury turned a deaf ear to gambling, jury-bribing and other crimes, when he and every lawyer in this community knows that indictments were brought against every known gambling house keeper in Omaha and South Omaha, including four or five bills against Tom Dennison? Was not the grand jury's only offense in the eyes of this great reformer its failure to indict Mayor Moores on some ill-defined rumor? Is not also the chief ground of his hostility to the grand jury due to the fact that it indicted Meserve, his former colleague in the state house, for pocketing \$3,000 of interest gathered by loaning out state school money?

And why should Mr. Smyth vent his spleen on Judge Baker, through whose co-operation he was enabled to gain whatever reputation he made as attorney general in the prosecution and conviction of Bartley? Was Baker a Daniel come to judgment when he ruled with Smyth in the Bartley trial and did he become the worst judge Nebraska has ever seen in advising the grand jury that Meserve was indictable for milking the school fund?

Why should Hitchcock, Smyth or anybody else go out of their way to array the citizens of South Omaha against those of Omaha by raising false issues and attacking people who had no relation whatever to the South Omaha campaign except as members of a political party?

The committee representing the Douglas County Agricultural association of farmers, who farm the taxpayers, wants to know what the county board proposes to do toward helping to arrange for the next fall's county fair. In other words, the close corporation that carries on an annual squash and pumpkin show and calls it a county fair has started out early in the season to ascertain how much it can draw out of the county treasury this fall to enable the members of the combine to have a good time at the public expense. Omaha and Douglas county have outgrown the county fair years ago. These periodic raids on the county treasury are not much better than legalized pilfering. The real farmers of Douglas county and taxpayers generally have nothing to gain by such a show, either from an advertising or educational standpoint.

Bertha Schilling, 12 years of age, of 499 Cleveland avenue had an odd experience Sunday when she was knocked down by a car and had her hair cut off almost as clean as if by a pair of scissors. She was crossing Third avenue behind a southbound car when a northbound car confronted her. She stepped back to let it pass, but the side of the car struck her and drew her heavily to the ground, in falling her long hair fell across the rail, although her head and body were out of danger. The forward wheels passed over her hair, cutting it off close to the scalp. Part of the scalp was closed.

The accident was witnessed by a large number of persons, many of whom supposed the girl had been killed. After the car passed by a dozen men rushed to her assistance and raised her up. The girl smiled, but burst into tears when she learned that she had lost her hair, of which she was very proud. The severed curls were gathered up and handed to her. With them tucked securely under her arm she ran to tell her mother.

"There were many moments during the prolonged period Pierpont Morgan occupied the witness chair on Wednesday in the Northern Pacific-Northern Securities examination proceedings, when it was evident he was impatient," relates the New York Evening Post. "This was not apparent in his manner while speaking, but from time to time, at the close of a sentence, he threw himself back in his chair and looked 'mad clear through.' His method of letting off steam, as it were, consisted, first, in taking a deep inhalation; second, in turning as if to question him was obvious. When he permitted upon Mr. Lamb, the inquirer, third, in expelling the overcharge of air through his stubby mustache, glaring meanwhile with wide eyes out of a distant window. He did this most often after answering a question which, apparently, impressed him as needless rather than leading or discomfiting.

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"He would then begin at a point three or four answers back, and carry the recital probably ten or twelve questions in advance. After this, he would settle back in his chair as if feeling sure Mr. Lamb could not raise up another question. His answers were unhesitating, even when he cut one short to draw in a great quantity of air, and to the point above all else. His willingness to answer was evident. That he impressed the attorneys who had gathered to question him was obvious. When he stated his intention to go to Europe within a short time, and hoped he might have ample notice in case his presence should be necessary again, the attorneys went with one another in assuring him, with bows and smiles, that he should, of course, be consulted before being called. And, really, it did seem that Pierpont Morgan was doing those attorneys a favor that day."

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The union veterans of German birth are raising a fund for a monument to General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, of the American revolution, to be erected in Washington, D. C.

Gonzales de Quesada is mentioned as Cuba's first diplomatic representative at Washington. He was a prominent member of the Can Junta and of the Cuban constitutional convention.

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Destiny's Unchangeable Course.

Baltimore American. Cecil Rhodes left his millions to foster by an educational system the imperial idea, which was the dominating one of his life. But destiny is shaping itself on its own lines, and not even a man of Rhodes' strong character and masterful will, backed by colossal wealth, can turn the future into a channel of his own preparing.

Who Got the Money?

Indianapolis News. The asphalt companies which have gone into bankruptcy, were capitalized at \$58,000,000, had fixed charges of \$2,150,000, and showed net earnings of only \$250,000. This is rated as "abreud financing."

Not Not All.

Boston Transcript. Speaking of empire building and Cecil Rhodes, it is recalled that Carlyle said that he would rather surrender India than Shakespeare. "She is not grandeur," said Huxley, "territory does not make a nation."

Doing the Right Thing.

Springfield Republican. The president is exactly right in his refusal to sign bills relieving deserters of their stigma, yet the house of representatives, which gaily passed 215 private pension bills in almost as many minutes stands considerably shocked by the executive's attitude.

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ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

The shortest legislative session New York state has enjoyed in 108 years came to a close last week with a pardonable display of oratorical procreancy. Last year the session lasted until April 23. Yet the session just ended was a fruitful one, and, from a political point of view, decidedly favorable to the republican administration. Most significant of the measures put through were tax bills by which the burden of state government are provided for almost entirely by indirect taxation. Direct taxation has been reduced to thirteen-hundredths of a mill, and that amount is likely to be wiped out next year. Besides the splendid showing, the state treasury has a surplus of \$4,000,000.

Peter Murphy, a young builder of New Rochelle, who is known as the hero of the Park avenue railroad tunnel collision, set out his claim for damages for what is said to have been \$18,500. Mr. Murphy said he received something in the neighborhood of \$30,000. The only thing he seemed to regret was that his case might be taken as the basis of settlement with others who might be better off. His only permanent injury is the loss of his left leg below the knee. He has already ordered an artificial limb.

Placards outside a little restaurant which opened for business at City Hall Place and Pearl street last week announced "meal for 1 cent," and the placard told the truth, inside a person might procure for a copper coin a large bowl of thick pea soup, hopped oats or barley. The restaurant is an experiment, which its proprietor, Bernard McFadden, says that he has established to show how cheaply the human body can be palatably and satisfactorily nourished.

Business at the restaurant opened with a rush. The place was so crowded with persons, prosperous and otherwise, that within an hour the supply of soup was exhausted. There were a great many who ate their food for the novelty of the thing and a great many more who appreciated the low prices.

To the newboys and the street Arabs of the vicinity the establishment appeared to be a boon. They came in droves and went away happy to tell others of their kind about the new "eat joint," where the "grub" was great and cost but 1 cent. They didn't care what the intention of the founder was; they wanted good cheap, and they got it.

Among the other things on the bill of fare which the managers say they will vary slightly each week—were beans, peas and potatoes prepared with milk and whole-wheat bread, which cost a nickel.

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Don't Grab at Shadows. If you do, you will surely lose substances. Don't try this thing and that thing and every other thing you see advertised as a cough medicine.

Don't waste time chasing shadows! Better follow the advice of eminent physicians and grasp the real substance, — Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Ask your own doctor if he has ever used a better medicine for colds, coughs, bronchitis, croup, asthma.

"For five years I have been suffering with bronchitis. For the past two months it has confined me to the house. A few weeks ago I began to take Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and only two bottles entirely cured me."

DANIEL R. LEPPS, Alta, W. Va. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

PENSION COMMISSIONER EVANS.

Indianapolis News. People that honor a man that does his duty in office will sincerely regret the retirement of Henry Clay Evans, commissioner of pensions, who tendered his resignation to the president. The fight that has been made on Mr. Evans has finally been crowned with success. Weary of the persecutions and opposition to which he has been subjected, he retired from the office which he has administered so creditably.

Chicago Post: The commissioner's surrender is to be profoundly regretted. Honest veterans had no grievance against him, while the fraudulent claimants are not entitled to any consideration or sympathy. It is interesting to know that the Evans policy will be continued by his successor, presumably by the explicit direction of the president. This will make the victory of the anti-Evans forces utterly barren from the standpoint of the looter and spoilsman—the nation for revenue.

Philadelphia Press: It is the commissioner has been displaced to placate the "adventurous" element that have been so industriously and clamorously demanding his retirement, it would be meet and fit that they should select his successor, for in no other way can their uproar be silenced. In this view of the case as the Ledger has heretofore remarked, Commissioner Evans' successor obviously is Corporal Tanner, whom nobody accused of a too punctilious fidelity to his duty as pension commissioner.

New York Times: It is clear that his appointment to another and more remunerative place would be an improvement of his previous service. That is to say, it would be in effect a denial that there is any reason, connected with the service, why he should be retired. With such an endorsement from the president it seems to us that it is neither proper nor even excusable to retire him. For retirement, it is what ever form it may take. He has held his post steadily and faithfully, with patience, fidelity and courage.

Philadelphia Press: Mr. Evans was a soldier in the civil war, and it would have been most consonant with his sympathies and preferences to meet even the extravagant expectations of his old comrades and construe the pension law with the most liberal elasticity against the government and in favor of all pension claimants. He had precedent for such a course, but his idea of duty was not of that character. He took the law as he found it, construed it according to precedent and in accordance with the terms and spirit of a fair interpretation.

GOVERNOR CUMMINS' VETO.

Vigorous and Weighty Objections to a Railroad Bill. Chicago Post. The Iowa legislature has discovered that it is unwise to reckon without Governor Cummins, an independent and courageous executive who means to do his duty to the people. The bill to remove the limit of indebtedness per mile imposed by existing law from certain railroads organized or operating in Iowa, passed with extraordinary and strange alacrity, is vetoed by Governor Cummins in a message as sound as it is refreshing.

It is pointed out that the measure is repugnant to the constitution of Iowa and to the spirit of its artificial classification of the railroad companies. In other words, it is not general legislation, but an instance of special lawmaking to further the supposed interests of three or four lines. This objection might be met by an amendment extending the scope of the bill, but the executive informs the legislature in advance that another veto awaits any measure embodying the principle of the present bill. He declares, and rightly, that principle to be manifestly wrong and incompatible with public policy.

Governor Cummins, it is hardly necessary to say, would approve any measure designed to enable railroads to secure proper economy, efficiency or improvement. But he says: "It is one thing to grant to railway companies the right to borrow money needed to aid in the construction and equipment of their lines of railways. It is quite another thing to authorize a

LAUGHING GAS.

Yonkers Statesman: "Chloe—Is your husband a bromide?" "Yes, he is; he won't do price at a dozen cakewalks."

Philadelphia Press: "Beg pardon," said the simple-looking fellow meeting Subbuss in a dark street, "but what time have you?" "Just enough to catch my train," replied Subbuss, as he hastened on.

Chicago Tribune: Oleo Manufacturer—Do you guarantee this coloring matter to be absolutely harmless? "Dealer—I do. It's the same kind we sell to the dairymen."

Puck: "I've got a grand scheme, old man. And I'll tell you in on the ground floor." "I'm! Are there any exits?"

Brooklyn Life: Mrs. Van Upperton—Yes, my ancestors came over on the Mayflower. Mrs. Suddichler—How foolish of them! Mine wanted for a ten-day boat.

Boston Transcript: She—But you must admit that society in our village is all the time becoming more cultured. He—Yes, I hear that at the minstrel show last week instead of end men they advertised "superior territorial facilities."

PLEASURE.

Somerville Journal. 'Tis sweet to sit in peaceful ease, When howling bilizards blow, And watch the man who lames his back, As-aping up the ground.

'Tis sweet in summer time to swing Within the hammock's net, And watch the man who mows the lawn, His brow all damp with perspiration.

'Tis sweet, again, when autumn comes— Oh, yes, it does you good To watch the lined man at work As-swinging up the wood.

In fact, 'tis sweet at any time, To rest in sloughy ease, and watch Some other fellow work.

Supreme Food. Builds Strong Bodies, Sound Teeth, and Makes Possible the Natural Condition of Health, because no part has been removed from Nature's Perfect Whole—the wheat. Sold by all Grocers. Send for the Vital Question (free) and learn the whole truth. THE NATURAL FOOD CO., Niagara Falls, N. Y.