

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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GEORGE B. TSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 30th day of April, A. D. 1902.
(Seal) M. B. HUNIGATE, Notary Public.

With four score Indians in attendance on the federal grand jury Omaha can recall pioneer days.

General Prosperity is not yet prepared to evacuate any of the territory in this section that he has been occupying.

Decks are now cleared for another chapter in the volume on Eighth street occupation, with a joint authorship by the two disputing railroads.

From the succession of congressional fatalities, it seems to be dangerous for a member of the lower house to serve on any committee concerned with a cemetery.

The eruptive activity exhibited by the volcano on Mount Pelee, in the Danish West Indies, must be an enthusiastic anticipation of annexation to Uncle Sam's dominion.

Clubs of colored women will be able to gain admission to the national federation by unanimous consent of the executive board, but to get unanimous consent will be the rub.

The only wonder is how the alleged beef trust managed to survive the era when Nebraska's great trust-smashing attorney general was dealing death blows at the Standard Oil octopus.

When the peace arbitrators between Boer and Briton in South Africa get down to details they should not overlook the necessity of a clause in the stipulations fixing the status of the American mule.

The list of school census enumerators just made up by the school board includes more women than men. We will watch to see whether the feminine mathematics produce better results than the masculine.

News comes from Texas that recent earthquakes have seriously affected the flow of oil in the Texas gushers. They will not affect the flow of oil stocks, however, so long as credulous people have money to burn.

Those club women might perhaps have gotten around the color line with less difficulty by adopting some sort of a grandmother clause on the order of the negro disfranchisement sections of some of our new southern state constitutions.

Members of the Cuban senate and house are impatiently waiting for May 20, so they can begin their legislative grind. They would like to turn the hands of the clock forward if the American congress did not have a patent on that trick.

You can fool some people all the time, you can fool most people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time. Members of the city council who imagine that they can fool many people by playing fast and loose with the Union Pacific foundry controversy will discover some day that they underrate the intelligence of the people of Omaha.

Councilman Burkley has a clean record, but an honest man who does not answer roll call when measures of vital concern to the interests of the taxpayers are before the council and a good man who does not raise his voice in protest against bad measures and crooked deals is of little value to the community. This comment is made with no unkindly feeling for Councilman Burkley, but simply to remind him that in the present crisis the citizens and taxpayers of Omaha look to him to stand up and fight the charges are proven.

WITHIN CLOSED DOORS.

The State Board of Equalization, made up of the governor, state auditor and state treasurer, is now in session at the state capitol. Its most important function is the assessment of the property of railroads, sleeping car and telegraph companies. The board represents the people of Nebraska in the exercise of this function and should court the widest publicity. The announcement that the board proposes to hold its session within closed doors will subject that body to the suspicion that it does not want to take the public into its confidence and has something to conceal which the public should know.

So far as we can comprehend there is really no ground whatever for star chamber proceedings in the appraisement of railroad property. On the contrary, it would seem that every word spoken and every action taken before that board should be public property. The people have a right to know on what lines the board is proceeding in arriving at its conclusions of the valuation of the property of the corporations, and the people have a right to know and should know the position each member of the board takes individually and how they vote collectively when a vote is taken on any proposition.

What applies to the action of the board in regard to the appraisement of railroad and telegraph properties applies also to its action with regard to the equalization of taxes between the respective counties. Every taxpayer in Nebraska is vitally concerned in state taxation and the distribution of the tax burdens and there is no occasion nor excuse for keeping the taxpayers in the dark as to the mode of arriving at the conclusions as the work of the board proceeds.

ARMY REFORM PUT OFF.

The indications are that nothing will be done at the present session of congress in regard to proposed army reform. Indeed it is said that the last hope of the administration of doing anything at this session, and perhaps in this congress, is dead and past resurrection. The plan at the opening of the present congress was to have the bill for the consolidation of the staff put through the senate and the bill for federalizing the militia put through the house, so that the two measures would not get in the way of each other and that there would be no rivalry between committees, the house having a separate committee to handle bills affecting the militia as distinguished from measures relating to the regular army.

The house committee was favorable to the plan of militia reform recommended by Secretary Root and reported a bill for that purpose, but it was not pushed in order to let the staff consolidation bill be equally well started by the senate committee on military affairs. The latter measure seemed in a fair way to receive favorable consideration when General Miles appeared before the committee and declared his opposition to the bill, since while nothing has been done in regard to it and apparently nothing is likely to be done at this session.

In view of the fact that the proposed army reform had the endorsement of Generals Schofield and Merritt and that public discussion of the plan formulated by the War department was generally favorable to it, it is not easy to understand why the senate committee on military affairs should have dropped the matter. No important opposition to it has been manifested except that of General Miles and the reason for that was largely or altogether personal. Of course we can go on, perhaps with no great difficulty, under the existing method, but now is an auspicious time for adopting a system that would undoubtedly be for the betterment of the military establishment.

THE REPUBLICAN DEFENSE.

The senate republicans have wisely determined to defend the administration and the army in the Philippines against the accusations and imputations of democratic senators. It had been the understood intention of the republicans to allow the opposition to have a practical monopoly of discussion, expecting thereby to sooner reach a vote on the contract that requires them to pay the cost of viaducts constructed over their tracks for the protection of the public. They managed to stave off the viaduct taxes and charges, but at the end the supreme court affirmed the right of the city and they were compelled to foot the bill.

In the present controversy the city either has the right to enforce its contract, or its contract is a rope of sand. While it is true that the interests of the Union Pacific and those of the city are identical in some respects, they are not completely identical. It is hardly probable that the Union Pacific would attempt to retard the growth of Omaha by any injurious policy out of mere spite, knowing all of the time that it would deplete its own treasury by so doing. But the mayor and council are simply the board of directors of the corporation known as the City of Omaha and their duty is just as much to protect its interests as that of Mr. Burt and the other directors of the Union Pacific to protect the interests of their corporation.

Live Nebraska Towns

CENTRAL CITY—Beautiful and Busy.

Central City, the county seat of Merrick county, is a growing city of 2,000 population, in the broad, fertile valley of the Platte, 130 miles west of Omaha. It is located on the main line of the Union Pacific and a branch of the B. & M., in the heart of one of the richest agricultural, stock feeding and dairying sections of the state, and is the home of substantial business men, wealthy retired farmers and a happy, prosperous and contented people. It has the best system of waterworks of any town of its size in the state, costing \$40,000, two large grain elevators of 60,000 bushels' capacity each, an up-to-date roller mill with a daily capacity of 125 barrels of flour and 500 bushels of feed, a gas plant under course of construction, a broom factory, poultry packing, three banks, good opera house and academy of music, three newspapers, with other lines of business suitably represented. It is the center of the greatest stock feeding district of Nebraska and thousands of fat cattle, sheep and hogs are shipped annually from Central City. Although a heavy corn producing county, no corn is ever shipped out of Merrick county; it finds its way to market in the shape of sleek beevves and bacon porkers and muttons. One feeder alone, Mr. T. B. Hord, feeds annually from 15,000 to 18,000 head of cattle, 12,000 to 15,000 head of sheep and a large number of hogs. Central City is headquarters of large grain and live stock companies, carrying on an extensive business throughout the state.

The city has two ward schools and a community High school building, with an enrollment of over 400 pupils, and an em-

ployee corps of fifteen teachers. The Nebraska Central college, the state educational institution of the Friends' church, is located here and has attracted to the city and vicinity a considerable colony of Quakers, a quiet, substantial citizenship that any city might be glad to welcome. There are seven churches, representing the leading denominations, which are supported by strong and active congregations. Central City has no saloons.

Old Lone Tree (now Central City) was one of the historic places of Nebraska. It was a stage station back in the '50s and a noted place on the overland trail, known from one end of the country to the other. Later, when the town became conspicuous on account of its numerous and beautiful shade trees, the citizens realized the incongruity of the name and it was changed to Central City, on account of its location upon almost the exact geographical center of the United States. Columbus and Kearney each make similar claims, but we settle the dispute by splitting the difference and locating the center at Central City. The town has never been boomed, has no state institutions, nor is it nursed or nurtured by any railroad company. It is the trade center of a rich territory and its growth has always been steady and substantial. Central City is independent and has no fears for the future; we welcome good citizens who locate here, but we are not giving any premiums to induce people to come. It is the prettiest town in the state and there is not a better community of people under the shining sun.

C. S. BEARD.

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Scenes and Incidents Observed at the National Capital.

A correspondent of the New York Sun throws a cruel harpoon into one of the celebrated political traditions of our day by showing that the United States Senate is not as rich a body of men as is generally supposed. It does not come up to its reputation as a millionaires' club. According to statements of individual senators, repeated by the correspondent, only eighteen of the eighty-eight senators are worth \$1,000,000 or more. Here is an even dozen of the eighteen with their wealth set out in plain figures:

William A. Clark, Montana	\$25,000,000
Thomas C. Keeler, Utah	10,000,000
John D. Long, New Jersey	5,000,000
James B. McMillan, Michigan	5,000,000
E. B. Elkins, West Virginia	4,000,000
John D. Dryden, New Jersey	3,000,000
Reuben E. Prentiss, Vermont	2,000,000
George W. Aldrich, Rhode Island	2,000,000
John W. Davis, Connecticut	2,000,000
Charles A. Hanna, Ohio	2,000,000
Chambers M. Price, New York	1,000,000
Eugene Hale, Maine	1,000,000

Now that is not a very formidable list. It numbers only twelve and the aggregate of the estimated fortunes is only \$62,000,000. There are five or six names that perhaps should be added of senators who, if the facts were known, might be able to squeeze just within the \$1,000,000 mark, such senators as J. B. Foraker of Ohio, Charles W. Fairbanks of Indiana, Thomas R. Bard of California, A. G. Foster of Washington and J. H. Millard of Nebraska.

A local dealer in firearms says the Washington Post, has sent out to members of the house notice that he has one of the finest laminated steel double-barreled shotguns ever made in the United States, having rebounding hammers, French walnut stock and all the other requisites for a fine weapon. Delegate Rodey of New Mexico received one of those letters. "I have framed it in my mind," said he, "a reply something like this:

"There is a fatality about life that brings all things opportunity to those who wait, hence your gun circular came in my mail this morning. Hon. Francis W. Cushman is not the only member of congress who would like to go gunning for the makers and enforcers of the house rules. I am one of the delegates who have waited for more than two months to have our 'privileged report' on the admission of the territories to the union ferment into a hearing and therefore my patience is exhausted. If there is any one thing more than another that I have been wanting and am yearning for it is what is said to be the finest laminated steel double-barreled shotgun ever made in the United States, No. 12 bore, weight 7½ pounds, with outside rebounding hammers, French walnut stock, steel butt-plate and finished in the finest style, together with a case, trunk style and loading tools, making a complete outfit, that will be sold at half cost."

"If my courage does not fail me, I will come down and see it one of these days."

Speaking of Justice, as she is met out in the territories," said Senator Clark of Wyoming the other day to a representative of the Washington Times, "it reminds me of an experience I had in Wyoming before we were admitted to statehood. It was with the chief justice of the territory, too. A man who was the proprietor of a saloon and a gambling house got drunk one night and went sailing on his boat. He attacked his wife with a bowie knife. He slashed her up badly and threw her overboard when the thermometer was 15 degrees below zero.

"I prosecuted him for assault and attempted murder. When the case came before the chief justice he coolly informed me that I should have brought a case similarly for assault before a justice of the peace and not bothered the court of the territories with such a case."

"Well, I was very angry. Here we were trying to establish law and order in the territory and doing our utmost to redeem it from lawlessness and crime."

"I left the court, and shortly afterward the chief justice called upon me at my office and I ordered him out into the street. I met him occasionally in Washington, but we never speak as we pass by."

"The senate is the greatest legislative body in the world," said Senator Clegg addressing Mr. Spooner upon a bill that was being considered.

"Oh, no," replied Mr. Spooner. "This is not the greatest legislative body in the world. It is only a part of one of the greatest legislative bodies. But I will not dispute that it is the greatest part. In fact," added Mr. Spooner, smiling, "I think we all admit that fact."

The honorable justices of the supreme court are extremely exacting regarding the way in which the briefs of lawyers are prepared for them. All briefs must be printed. The court has carefully prescribed the size of type, the width of the spacing and the kind of paper. The printing of briefs on glazed paper is absolutely prohibited. The members of the court read these pamphlets for hours at a time and glazed paper is very hard on their eyes, as it reflects the light. Therefore they insist that all briefs be printed on rough paper of a certain tint. The size of the pamphlets is also carefully prescribed.