

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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Governor Savage will doubtless feel relieved most of all.

Mount Peles seems to have no aversion whatever to working overtime.

That promised speed competition between the Chicago-Omaha railroads resembles so far a pugilistic tourney—it's mostly talk.

What a lot of flaring headlines and sensational extras the supreme court has opened the yellow-journal-ridden people of Omaha.

Last year's levy for county and state was 2 1/2 mills. This year's county tax rate should be reduced to 20 mills or below that figure.

The next time the Omaha Bakery prints a straight tip from the supreme court people will confidently look for a decision the opposite way.

Memorial day is a holiday in whose spirit all can unite. The committees in charge of the local observance should have general support and co-operation.

In the language of Chief Justice Sullivan in the police commission opinion, "all judicial controversies must end some time and this one seems to have run its course."

It is noteworthy that the passage of James J. Hill through Nebraska has not been attended by earthquake, volcanic eruption or any other unusual demonstration of nature.

The principal duties thus far entailed upon President Palma as chief executive of Cuba appear to be making due acknowledgments of the flood of congratulatory messages.

When the machinery of the federal courts is employed to work personal revenge for the prosecuting attorney it is time for the Department of Justice to dispense with his further services.

The claim is made that the Kansas City platform is the grandest political document ever written. Won't someone come forward to champion T. Jefferson's immortal Declaration of Independence?

King Alfonso has started out on the royal stage in true Castilian style by attending a bull fight of the genuine Spanish pattern. The new king evidently wants all the royal traditions kept alive.

Nebraska's supreme court nevertheless wants it distinctly understood that it reserves the right to bombard the executive mansion with writs of mandamus and injunction whenever the occasion demands.

By the way, there is nothing to stop the State Board of Equalization from reconvening and adding the valuation of the railway franchises to their assessment without waiting for a court mandate to that effect.

The Bee feels sure it is not violating confidence in making the announcement that each and every one of the expectant police commissioners will now swear that they would not have accepted an appointment from Governor Savage under any circumstances.

Senator Tillman may take great comfort out of the privilege accorded him of presiding over the state convention of South Carolina democrats, but that will not reverse the popular verdict on the disgraceful exhibition he made of himself at the time of Prince Henry's visit to the national capital. If South Carolina stands for Tillman it will have to stand alone.

AN UNMIGATED OUTRAGE.

At the instance of United States Attorney Summers the federal grand jury is said to have returned indictments against two reporters of The Bee. One of these, H. H. Claiborne, is charged with having given false testimony in a case tried in the United States court two years ago. The other, G. J. Best, is charged with personating an officer while recently making an investigation of the conditions prevailing upon the Winnebago Indian reservation. The attempt to place a stigma upon these men is manifestly a deliberate effort on the part of United States Attorney Summers to destroy their credibility in order to shield himself and other federal officials over whom charges are hanging at Washington.

The spirit that animates the action against Claiborne is so transparent that no amount of pelayer can conceal it. If Mr. Claiborne were guilty of a crime two years ago there is no valid reason why he should not have been prosecuted within reasonable time after the alleged offense was committed. Two federal grand juries have been in session in the time intervening, but neither Attorney Summers nor any one else saw fit to present accusations. Even without a grand jury, Mr. Summers could have readily preferred his charges before a United States commissioner and had the offender bound over.

The true reason why Mr. Summers has suddenly awakened to the gravity of Mr. Claiborne's alleged offense is that an affidavit signed by Mr. Claiborne had been filed at the White House some weeks ago relating an interview between himself and Summers on the Sunday following the pardon of Bartley from the penitentiary. In this interview Mr. Summers boasted that he had been instrumental in inducing Governor Savage to grant the pardon; that in his (Summers') opinion Bartley was still the great political power in Nebraska whose influence would make itself felt in the future. Incidentally Mr. Summers admitted to Claiborne that he had invited Bartley to come up to Omaha for a conference, which took place in the wine room of Flynn's saloon at the corner of Thirteenth and Douglas streets, lasting from 8 o'clock in the evening until 2 o'clock the next morning.

The facts set forth in this affidavit were verified by direct and indirect proof. It is a matter of notoriety and has been a scandal that District Attorney Summers has been closely affiliated with the rotten element of the republican party in Nebraska and he made no bones of his intimate relationship and of championship of Bartley. At the state capital he has been given the credit of writing the lame and impotent explanation that was attached to the pardon over the signature of Governor Savage. The conference in the Flynn saloon as verified by affidavit of witnesses has, as we understand it, been admitted, but with the assurance that Mr. Summers confided his threat to apportion, while the liquors served were consumed by his companion, and this is not intended as a reflection on Mr. Bartley. It is safe to say that had not the Claiborne affidavit been filed with the president the grand jury would never have heard of Mr. Claiborne.

The case of Mr. Best is if anything a greater and more inexcusable outrage. Mr. Best was dispatched to the Indian reservation a few weeks ago to run down and verify reports of maladministration on the part of the Indian agent and abuses to which the Indians on the Winnebago reservation were being subjected by a land lease ring in collusion with the agent and trader. In the discharge of this duty Mr. Best took pains to get at the truth as well as he could, notwithstanding the obstructions put in his way by the parties who have despoiled and debauched the Indians. Mr. Best made no secret of his connection with The Bee and resorted to no deception. To assure his informants who had been victimized and terrorized by the ring that they would not be punished for telling the truth, he said that their complaints and any disclosures made would be forwarded to Washington.

For daring to discharge his duty as a reporter and to counteract the damaging effects of the affidavits he gathered and the affidavits he made he is to be persecuted and smirched by the misuse of the power vested in the district attorney, who, while pretending to be anxious to punish the rascals who have been robbing the Indians, is pursuing a course designed to protect them. Fortunately there is a higher authority than District Attorney Summers. That authority, we feel sure, will not be distracted in its purpose to get at the true inwardness of affairs on the reservation and to discharge the obligations the government has assumed toward its wards regardless of the beneficiaries. The Bee has up to this time refrained from giving publicity to the facts in its possession relating to the discreditable conduct of Mr. Summers in connection with Bartley and the rottenness on the Indian reservation, preferring to allow the department to right the wrong and deal with the recalcitrant officers. When the attempt is made to wreak personal revenge on its reporters it is compelled, however reluctant, to defend them and expose the animus of their persecution.

SHOULD BE SATISFACTORY. The letter of President Roosevelt to Bishop Lawrence of the Episcopal diocese of Massachusetts should be satisfactory to all who desire a thorough investigation of the alleged cruelties in the Philippines and the punishment of those who are proven guilty of the atrocities. The president is most explicit in his assurance that the investigation will be thorough and sweeping and he as strongly reprobates as anyone can everything in the nature of barbarity. "No provocation," says the letter, "however great, can be accepted as an excuse for misuse of the necessary severity of war, and above all not for torture of any kind or shape."

The president states a fact that has

not been generally known, which is that the War department ordered a rigid investigation of certain charges long before any statements had been made public and before any action had been taken by congress. This will correct the common impression that nothing was done until congress took notice of the public statements alleging extraordinary acts of cruelty by American soldiers in the Philippines and with fair-minded people will acquit the War department of the charge of dereliction in this matter.

The administration is doing its duty zealously and earnestly in regard to the charges against the army in the Philippines and it can be confidently asserted that the country will be informed of all the facts.

NAILED DOWN FOR GOOD. The supreme court decision in the Omaha police commission case may be pronounced in parliamentary language a nailer. Once and for all time the court has affirmed that the original decision settled the case, which cannot be reopened by juggling the parties or changing the form of the suit. In other words, a case once adjudged by the supreme court and the decree entered after formal hearing and rehearing is adjudged for good. This principle has been asserted and reasserted by The Bee even at the risk of a forced contribution of \$500 into the state school fund.

The final adjudication of the issues raised is gratifying to the people of Omaha for many reasons. The perpetual contention over the legality of the police commission has seriously impaired the efficiency and usefulness of police and fire departments by keeping the members of these departments under the menace of removal or degradation from rank. It has also had a tendency to diminish popular respect for the police as officers of the law and prevented some reforms that would have been inaugurated but for the uncertainty of tenure of the commission and the men under it.

As a factor in politics the scope and influence of the police commission has always been overrated. While the commission is in position to make friends, it is also compelled to make enemies who are often more active than friends. From the broad standpoint of good government the settlement of the police commission muddle, insuring home rule at least for the coming year, must be satisfactory to all who are not biased by personal interest or partisan prejudice.

SENATOR HOAR'S POSITION. The position of Senator Hoar regarding the Philippines is well known to the country, but his speech yesterday again defining his views will command general attention and perhaps will be more widely read and discussed than any other speech that has been or will be made on the subject. This because all men recognize not only the great ability of the distinguished Massachusetts senator, but also his absolute sincerity and fidelity to his conscientious convictions. Mr. Hoar's attitude respecting the Philippine policy of the government has been entirely consistent, which is not the case with some others who condemn that policy. He has not stultified himself as have the democrats in the senate who have been most conspicuous and vehement in denouncing the course of the government and assailing the army in the Philippines.

The telegraphic summary of Senator Hoar's speech does not show that he added anything new to the discussion. Much of it appears to be a repetition, in different phrasing, of what had gone before. It is no more convincing than his previous utterances on the subject and these have failed to convert any considerable number of the American people to the senator's views. Even in his own state he has not succeeded in influencing popular sentiment to any appreciable extent and his party there is overwhelmingly opposed to him on the Philippine question. His latest deliverance, therefore, will probably have little if any effect upon the public mind. It may serve to strengthen the views of those who believe as Mr. Hoar does, but it will hardly increase their number.

The statement that this government had erected a despotism in the Philippines is clearly unwarranted and is an impeachment of the policy of President McKinley, still being pursued, for which no justification can be found in his proclamations and instructions to the military and civil authorities in the Philippines defining the policy and purpose of the government. Not the Massachusetts senator himself is more hostile to despotism than was William McKinley. In regard to the Philippine army, it is gratifying to have the admission from Mr. Hoar that he believes the officers, in general, are humane, yet he does not think the war on our part has been conducted with humanity. The fact that there have been acts of cruelty against the natives, but of proximity to volcanoes. One route has volcanoes, and the other has not. Which is safer?

John Henry Shelton Lee, assistant state attorney for Cook county, Illinois, has been appointed professor of criminal law and procedure in the Northwestern university law school.

Leon, the fashionable hatter of Paris, is dead. When he took the measurement of the head of a famous man he always took it in duplicate, as he collected a collection of head shapes of celebrities of great interest to phrenologists.

"Private" John Allen of Mississippi is one of the federal commissioners to the St. Louis world's fair, drawing for work in connection with that position the comfortable salary of \$5,000 a year. He was "out with the boys" one night recently, but broke away early, saying he had a busy day ahead because of the fair. "Busy day nothing," said one of the party. "What have you to do?" "Well," said Allen, "I've got to get up."

A couple of days after the death of Congressman Cummings a letter and an accompanying package which he would have greatly prized reached his one-time address in Washington. It was from Frederick Power, a friend who had gone to Manila through Mr. Cummings' assistance. The package contained a native printer's "stick" made of wood and roughly lined with brass. The interesting typography has been sent to the New York Typographical union.

REFLECT ON THE ARMY AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

and suppress those things to their credit. The democrats are on a fishing expedition, hoping to land a string that can be served up as political capital in the coming campaign. The only extraordinary feature about it is that a democrat like Senator Patterson should be brazen enough to attempt to deny it.

When the local bar association goes after members who tamper with witnesses and jurors it should not stop with one poor colored attorney. Nearly half the cases tried in the criminal court are said to point to testimony set up by the attorneys or their abettors. Time and again an alibi is pleaded which the verdict of the jury proves to be without credence, yet nothing is done to stop the practice. The bar can keep busy if it will.

President Loubet of France is receiving an ovation in Russia from which there is nothing detracted because he is at the head of a great republic while Russia is the greatest autocratic monarchy. But it is not so long ago that such an interchange of courtesies would have been regarded as ominous for the future of either the republic or the empire.

The latest mechanical invention for the production of the modern newspaper is a printing press capable of turning out 150,000 complete eight-page papers an hour. If anyone had had a vision of this while Ben Franklin was presiding over his old hand press he would have insisted that the day of miracles was ahead instead of behind him.

Issues are important in every campaign, but so are men. A man whose conduct and character belie his loyalty to party and friends cannot command confidence that he will be true to any issue he may claim to represent. Untrustworthy candidates are not made trustworthy by flaunting an issue above them.

Is It Worth the Money? Philadelphia Ledger. If a billion-dollar congress were only worth the money the country could easily afford to have one.

An Invitation Pigeon-Holed. Detroit Free Press. While the Boers may ultimately be chained to the chapel wheel it is apparent that they have no intention of taking part in the coronation parade.

Echoing 'Round the World. Chicago News. As President Roosevelt has decided not to interfere with the British camp in Louisiana the bray of the British mule will continue to be heard round the world.

A Gigantic Goose. New York Tribune. The one thing certain about the coal strike is that the public of this city is being unmercifully molested. The raising of prices of coal is a grab, pure and simple, and nothing more.

"Criticizing the Army." Indianapolis News. Those who have foolishly felt themselves called on to defend, not the army in the Philippines, but the outrages with which certain of the officers and men have been charged, must feel, after reading President Roosevelt's letter to Bishop Lawrence, as though they had been wasting their time. There is probably no more devoted friend of the army than Mr. Roosevelt, yet he refuses to think that a thing is right because it is done by a soldier in uniform, or that those who denounce it are wrong, or that a soldier is necessarily hostile to the army.

Old Age Pension Scheme. Boston Transcript. Another contribution to the growing list of old age pension plans comes from the Metropolitan Trust company of New York City, which has a commendable scheme in operation for pensioning its aged and infirm worthy employes. As the 15,000 men now in the employ of the company were engaged on the ground of character, health and intelligence, it has been correspondingly easy for the management to introduce the reform. According to the provisions employees between the ages of 65 and 70 may retire at any time after twenty-five years' service. They receive a pension in proportion to length of service, varying from 25 to 40 per cent of the average annual wages for the ten previous years. Beneficiaries under the system, it should be noted, are not required to contribute to the fund, the necessary amount being appropriated each year by the company.

PERSONAL NOTES. King Alfonso is bearing up bravely under his shower of decorations.

Sir Thomas Lipton would rather lift the cup than wear the king's garb.

David M. Blaine of Pratt county, Kansas, has established agencies in various western states to secure 20,000 bushels of wheat for harvest corn and wheat in his state.

The late Amos J. Cummings was the champion of the birds in congress, and some of his most brilliant speeches were made in behalf of his feathered friends.

Miles Kirk Burton, general manager of the Mersey docks and secretary of the Liverpool and London and North Western railway, is in America inspecting the dock system here.

The following conundrum is credited to Rear Admiral Walker, president of the canal commission: "It is not a question of earthquakes, but of proximity to volcanoes. One route has volcanoes, and the other has not. Which is safer?"

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BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Scenes and Incidents Observed on the Spot. The mantle of supremacy in long-distance speaking which fell in graceful folds from the shoulders of Hon. William Vincent Allen of Nebraska while a member of the United States senate promises to descend to Senator Thomas MacDonald Patterson, the junior megaphone from Colorado. Mr. Patterson is putting in some hard licks for the honor of strenuous verbosity and admirers of hair-trigger talking prefer to wait until the record before the session ends.

Patterson's hobby is attacking the president and the army officers for the management of affairs in the Philippines. He stirred up the early reports of alleged cruelties to the natives in the Philippines and brought out many of the facts about the operations of the water cure. He is a member of the senate Philippines committee and got into hot water by pressing General Hughes and other officers who were appearing before the committee for information which the witnesses did not care to divulge.

Senator Platt of Connecticut wanted to change the other day, and so informed a friend whom he invited to take a trip up the Potomac.

"Don't you know that it's against the law to catch bass now?" said the senator's friend.

"Well, if that's so," returned Mr. Platt, "we won't go. We senators ought not to figure in the police court all the time."

In connection with the above reference to the pecuniary of legislators the subjoined conundrum now current in Washington is attributed to Representative Thaddeus J. Mahon of Pennsylvania, who is charged with coining it at the expense of a distinguished southern statesman who has recently attained to publicity through a "regrettable" incident not connected with his office as legislator.

"Have you heard?" asked someone of someone else, "why they sent that street car conductor to the asylum?"

"No; what did they send him there for?" is the proper reply for someone else.

"Bunches of money" throwing money around the street and they thought there was something wrong with him."

Senator Hanna was telling a group of his colleagues about an offer he had received from an enterprising Chattanooga manager to deliver a course of lectures. The offer was \$10,000 for eighteen lectures, a sum equal to Mr. Hanna's salary as senator for two years.

"Now, I don't see why he made me that offer," asserted the senator. "He could get more who could talk all around me for a quarter of the amount."

"That reminds me," said Senator Spooner, who was one of the group. "I was called out of bed about 2 o'clock one morning by repeated rings at my door bell. I stuck my head out of the window and asked what was wanted. It was a reporter for a newspaper that had been anything but friendly to me. He said he wanted information on some insignificant matter and I got mad and berated him for calling me out of bed at that hour of the night. I probably was more forcible than polite. He expected that my visitor would turn abruptly on his heel and walk away. But he did nothing of the kind. He listened until I had finished and then said, blandly: 'This discomfort, senator, is simply one of the results of greatness.' Well, he worked me all right for the interview. That's the way it is with your lecture offer. It's simply one of the results of your greatness."

President Roosevelt repeatedly gives exhibitions of his prowess as a long distance walker. He walks whenever the fit strikes him and has no regular hour for either walking or riding.

An intimate friend from Boston, reports the Baltimore Sun, has reason to remember that the president is an ordinary walker, and will probably not be quick to accept an invitation the next time he visits Washington. Three days ago this friend called at the White House, and after an interview with the president was asked to wait a few minutes while some business was being attended to, after which the president would be glad to have his company for a walk.

At 3 o'clock p. m., an hour later, they started off together, walked rapidly out beyond Georgetown, thence to Cabin John bridge, seven miles and back to the Chain bridge, which they crossed. Coming down on the Virginia side through brush and woods they again crossed the Potomac by the Aqueduct bridge, reaching the White House at 7 o'clock, after traveling more than sixteen miles.

The senator had an engagement to dine with Senator Lodge informally at 7:30 p. m., and was barely able to reach his hotel. He telephoned the senator that all that was left of him would soon be in bed; that he had been walking with the president and the senator would understand.

A certain member of congress yielded to pressure and against his own judgment appointed as a messenger to his committee the son of one of his constituents, a young man of gallant bearing and devotion to sport. The new appointee seemed to enjoy his place; he was, at least, in constant attendance at social functions, frequently seen on the avenue adorned in magnificent array and indefatigable in showing handsome prowess about the city, but his employer became dissatisfied with his lack of application, and was driven almost to desperation the other day on going to his committee room to find his messenger idling what was doubtless a love letter instead of operating the typewriter. After a long pause, which it is needless to repeat, the frate M. C. said: "George, you make me think of an old farmer in my district, who hired a man to point rails, a pointer he is called in local parlance. The fellow did very well the first day; the second he sojered a little, and on the third day whenever the farmer visited the place on which he was employed he found his pointer seated upon a pile of logs calmly puffing a big pipe."

"Expatriation had no effect and before sundown the man received his money and was sent off. On returning to the house for supper his wife upbraided him for discharging the man, since he had a family to support and was very poor."

"Well, Mary," said her husband, "sympathy is all very well, but I hired a pointer, not a sifter."

"Now, George, I hired a messenger and typewriter, not a duds or beau. I hope you will take the hint."

Although his hair is tinged with gray, the people of Washington insist on calling him "Jimmie" Garfield. The son of the murdered president is being initiated into his duties as civil service commissioner by his associates. Commissioners Proctor and Foulke. Recently he was shown his room at Mr. Foulke's and impressed by "Mr. Garfield, you will have the honor of sitting at the same desk which President Roosevelt used when he was a member of the commission."

Mr. Garfield did not seem much impressed. "I am used to sitting at a desk that has been used by a president of the United States," he said. "I use my desk at home, so I think I shall be able to work all right at this one."

Two Valorous Deeds. Washington Post. Captain Chadwick permits it to be understood that he was fairly aching to bombard Havana the very first week of the war with Spain and Hon. John D. Long con-

Advertisement for Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. "The same old medicine I prescribed half a century ago." Includes an illustration of a man and a bottle of the medicine.

FLASHES OF FUN. Brooklyn Eagle: "You never had your ears pierced, did you?" "Well, I heard Miss Hinote sing once."

Philadelphia Catholic Standard: "What is the best powder for babies?" asked the woman. "Gunpowder," absently replied the druggist, who had been up all night with his own.

Chicago Post: "You are an authority on history, I believe?" "No," replied the scholar sadly. "I used to be before I began reading historical novels."

Advertisement for Browning, King & Co., Exclusive Clothiers and Furnishers. "Welcome Comrades" and "We extend to you a hearty welcome, not only to our city, but to our store as well, where all the advantages that can be granted—except bread and butter—await you."