

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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TAXATION IN HAMILTON COUNTY.

Bulletin No. 30, issued under authority of the railroad of Nebraska, is devoted to an exhibit of comparative taxation in Hamilton county.

For the purpose of befogging the people comparisons are instituted between the assessments for 1893 and 1890, with the stereotyped exhibit of the radical divergence between the estimated valuations of the census enumerators and the real valuations of the assessors.

According to the state auditor's report, the aggregate assessed valuation of all property in Hamilton county for 1891 was \$1,988,977.

Now, mark the striking discrepancy. In 1891 all property in Hamilton county, exclusive of railroads, paid taxes on \$1,988,977.

Estimates of census enumerators, per capita figures and mileage tax comparisons are simply designed to confuse and confound the paramount issue, and that is whether the railroads are paying their proportion of taxes according to the present market value of their property and its enormously increased earning capacity.

It is not denied that certain American manufactures are sold in foreign markets at somewhat lower prices than are obtained for them in the home market.

As a matter of fact, remarks the American Economist, "the granting of discounts to foreign purchasers has been grossly exaggerated for political effect."

of various railroad systems by corporations such as that against which judicial proceedings are pending. The opinion is expressed that these various attempts to perfect community of interest through the organization of a sponsoring and protecting company will, if they are made in the fall, as some of them will be contingent upon the Northern Securities decision, be sure to result in a season of unsurpassed railway activity, greater than, though of a different kind, that which followed the resumption of speculations and continued for several years.

Herein is suggested the great importance of the result of the Northern Securities company case. If the decision should be against that corporation it will check and perhaps put an end to attempts at railway consolidation, or the control of great systems by powerful financial organizations. Otherwise it appears to be certain that a tremendous effort will be made to put into general effect the community of interest policy respecting the railroads, centralizing the railway systems of the country into four or five groups and establishing a mighty monopoly that would absolutely control transportation rates and despotically dominate the commerce of the country.

Representative Mercer of Nebraska rushed a bill through congress in record time during the last hours of the session. The measure, which appropriated \$75,000 for a quartermaster's warehouse at Omaha, was introduced in the house at 3 p. m. and signed by the president at 4 p. m.—Greta Brees.

Mr. Mercer's spectacular performance during the last hours of congress was furnished his admirers with a good deal of borrowed capital. The true urgency of the rapid transit of the quartermaster's warehouse bill from the speaker's desk to the president's table has not been disclosed in the accounts printed for home consumption.

As a matter of fact, the bill was reported from the military committee in May and could have been passed in the house without being held back until the last moment for dramatic effect. When it did pass the house, however, Mr. Mercer had no desire or intention to have it put through the senate during that session, and the credit for its prompt passage through the senate is due exclusively to Senator Dietrich. Mercer is posing in borrowed plumes. Senator Dietrich's version of the incident to a representative of The Bee is as follows:

"I knew nothing of the bill until the vice president sent a page to tell me that a bill carrying an appropriation for Nebraska had passed the house and had reached his desk. I looked the bill up and found that it had been introduced by Mr. Mercer, and immediately sent for him. He came over and I told him that I thought I could pass the bill if I could get the committee to report on it, and that I could get the committee to report if I knew something about it.

"He replied that there was no talk trying to pass it at all. That he had talked the matter over with Senator Millard, and that they had agreed that there was no chance for it to go through the senate at this session. Senator Millard had left Washington for home, convinced that there was nothing of importance to Nebraska coming up that need detain him. Notwithstanding Mercer's protest that the thing could not be done and there was no use trying, I sent for a copy of the house report on the bill, polled the senate military committee in executive session, and prevailed on the chairman of the committee to make a verbal report in favor of the bill as soon as the senate reconvened in open session. By unanimous consent I got the bill up and had it passed.

"Only a short time remained, however, before adjournment, and I knew that the bill had to be engrossed and enrolled and signed by the speaker and president of the senate, so that it could reach the president for his signature. By this time Mr. Mercer was awake to the necessities of the situation. He took the bill to the speaker and got it signed. I had it signed by the president of the senate and then turned it over to Mr. Mercer, who took it to the president, in the president's room, where the latter signed his signature."

These questions naturally present themselves: 1. Why did Mercer hold the bill up in the house until the last day of the session, although it had been reported by the committee on military affairs more than six weeks previously? 2. Why did Mercer agree and arrange that the bill should lay over in the senate until next December? 3. Did Mercer want the bill hung up as a plum to assist him in his campaign for a sixth term nomination?

plan of operations under the new irrigation law are denied. There is no good reason why any of the government authorities should trouble themselves now as to the question between federal, state and private ownership of irrigation works. Congress has settled that question by the action it has taken providing for national irrigation. All the department officials have to do now is to execute the work which the law imposes upon them.

It would seem that now is the time to renew the efforts made during the war to bring about the immigration to this country of considerable bodies of Boers. Boers likely to look favorably now on the suggestion of rebuilding their fortunes in this country instead of at their old home will not be so easily moved at a later period when again firmly rooted to South Africa. Can it be that all the talk emanating chiefly from railroad land agents about planting Boer colonies in the west was nothing but a bid for free advertising?

It is given out semi-officially that Governor Odell of New York has decided to retire from politics to accept an important executive position in Union Pacific headquarters at Omaha on a salary of \$100,000 a year. Would it be considered impertinent to ask whether Governor Odell is to be installed as editor of President Burt's railroad gazette, which is to eclipse and submerge the degenerate Omaha dailies?

According to reports from Lincoln certain railroad managers are evincing a remarkable interest in the personnel of Governor Savage's new police board for Omaha. But what special interest have the railroads in the management of the Omaha police? Are they figuring on contingencies of possible labor strikes?

Where Democrats All Agree. Detroit Free Press. A man would not be much of a democrat if he did not think it was Mr. Roosevelt's moral duty to disrupt the republican party.

In Good Industrial Health. New York Mail and Express. The people are no longer sick in heart and pocket as they were in 1898; they are not nearly so nervous in 1903. They are clear-eyed and strong, in full financial and industrial health. And more plainly than ever before they see the worthlessness of the poisonous nostrums of Bryan and his fellow quacks.

No Issue for Democrats. Philadelphia Press. Any revision of the tariff must come from its friends, and the associated republican policy of reciprocity, applied as it ought to be, will disarm any objection and relieve any restiveness there may be in the west. Turn which way the will the democratic leaders find no issue on which they can hopefully fight.

Should Pension Attorneys Be Barred? Buffalo Express. An investigation made by Commissioner Evans before he retired from the pension bureau convinced him that practically every man who served in the Spanish war had been solicited by pension attorneys to apply for a pension. Before the sunset was set to reduce the pension bill would be to refuse every application with which a pension attorney is connected.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL. There are 257,098 names in the new city directory of Boston, an increase of 4,722 over the number last year. Surprisingly, the John Sullivan's this year outnumber the John Smiths three to one.

TRANSCONTINENTAL TRAFFIC.

The Prize for Which All the Railway Magnates Are Struggling. San Francisco Chronicle. There seems reason to believe that railroad projects now proposed or in progress may result in a situation similar to that which brought on the great "merger" of the northern lines. What are known as the "transcontinental lines" are not transcontinental at all, but end at Missouri, the Missouri river, or, in the case of the Santa Fe, at Chicago. The lines running from Chicago to the Atlantic seaboard are known as the "trunk lines," and the connection between Chicago and the Missouri has another designation. At first the distribution of freight among these lines was a simple matter, easily settled by formal arrangement or otherwise. As the traffic increased, however, and with it the number of new eastern connections in a position to take and demand a share of the business, the situation has become very complex. As the different roads became consolidated into powerful systems the struggle for shares in the trade between them grew more and more acute. Indeed, and it is with the utmost difficulty prevented from degenerating into rate wars.

The tendency of all this is to the formation of really through transcontinental lines extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and each trunk line desires to become part of or control such a system. As the number of trunk lines increases, the number of central transcontinental lines, this is likely to result in more roads running to this city, of which one is now building, and in a struggle of eastern interests to get control of the Santa Fe, the Southern and Union Pacific being already up to the Vanderbilts. It is said that an active effort to accomplish this is now in progress on the part of those controlling the Great Rock Island system, which just now seems rather out of the cold as regards transcontinental traffic. Of course, no such project is proclaimed from the number of bills introduced in congress which have heretofore represented the Rock Island people has been for some time accumulating Santa Fe stock on a constantly rising market. If those in control of the Santa Fe have other views it is quite possible that we may see a struggle similar to that which is now going on between the Pacific and which sent that stock up to \$1,000 and would have ruined many speculators except for the mercy of the victors. No great amount of stock is likely to be bought at figures much above the real value, but if at the end there should be a small block remaining in the hands of speculators a lively fight may develop for its possession. If the stock takes a big jump while considerable remains in the market the effort to secure it will naturally be postponed till a more convenient season. But it will not be dropped.

Abundant to Which Growing Orace for Personal Notoriety Leads. Brooklyn Eagle. The increasing publicity that is given to private affairs may betoken an increasing brotherhood in the race, that justifies every member of it in what he would once have seemed like impertinent inquiries into the finances, family relations, industries and fads of every other member; or it may denote an increasing willingness on the part of people who do not see a clear way to fame in any other direction, to attain it by the disclosure of their private life to the under world may see the doings of the over world on reception and dinner nights; or it may be merely a part of modern newspaper enterprise that conceives the survival in cities of the gossiping spirit of the century. Anyhow, we have the publicity, and there is no doubt that it is increasing, like the material fortunes that occasion the most of it.

In no other thing do we find so remarkable an explanation of affairs that are none of the public's business as in weddings. It can be described, critical comment on the most important details, there is anything uncommon about weddings. They are happening every hour, all over the world, and they involve in happiness or trouble every sort and shade of people. They are not quite so usual as births and deaths, but they are almost. One would think that they were no more advertising than does the conductor of a grocery or the making of a vacation. Yet, if either party to the marriage contract has a certain number of dollars, be sure that the outer world will know all about the wedding. We shall have full reports of what is worn the food at the breakfast table, the dress, the critical comment on the frock-coats and countless frocks of the invited will be furnished by experts, there will be a complete list of that noble army of standbys known as "among those present," bride and groom will be watched as they enter the church and if either of them should appear in a tropical cap or if the report will be sent to a syndicate of newspapers all over the land, and finally there will be pictures of the bride, the groom, the parents of both, the house of each family, the house or hotel of the young couple, the decorated dining room, the couple, the table covered with presents, and at least one enterprising paper has beaten various contemporaries by furnishing pictures of the bride's most intimate raiment.

Well, if the persons in interest like this kind of thing they have plenty of what they like. Yet there is a lingering and old-fashioned sentiment that private affairs, like funerals, weddings, christenings, receptions, balls and dinners concern only participants and relatives, and as there is a certain similarity in these functions, which enables the reader to draw inferences from verbal outlines, there need be at least no extended description. Probably a few people employed in monotonous tasks at low wages like to read about the way people of monotonous leisure make themselves for themselves by the distribution of the most confirmed readers of society news in London are the servants, but to the mass of Americans it can matter little whether Miss Smythe-Perkins goes to the altar in a white organdy with mauve awies biased on the right side, or in a purple velvet garlanded with pearls and furbled sewed in the gores. Nor can the parents of Miss Smythe-Perkins, nor the husband of her, conceive how the public can be lifted or educated or amused or in anywise interested in the matter. Yet, for some reason or other, the tendency is to exploit the private doings of private families and open the doors of private houses to the gaze of the unrelated multitude.

It is worth while, as a matter of news, and as the tendency commences, to look at the giving of publicity to private affairs that are of only personal or local consequence tend to invasions of privacy that sometimes encroach on right and decency, and also intensify that struggle for notice on the part of those who by general occupations, occupations of charity or the have done nothing to deserve it. And, as rich families increase and the papers are more and more filled with accounts of parties, drinking, driving and giving of parties, will not the people who are busy about matters of more consequence sicken of it and ask for a return to the publication of news? If so, the evil is one that will cure itself.

People Pay the Freight. Chicago News. Before engaging seats for the great railroad fair which is being extensively advertised the public should lock its valuables in the safe, as somebody will have to pay the cost of the spectacle.

ARMY VIEW OF NEW UNIFORM.

New Clothing Regulations as They Are Seen Through Military Glasses. Army and Navy Register. Army officers have hardly had time to digest the provisions of the general order publishing the new clothing regulations. The changes, however, seem to meet with approval. There are minor details of course, upon which officers differ in opinion as to the advisability of the decision of the uniform board. One of the things criticized is the placing of the decoration on the sleeve of the dress coat too near the bottom of the cuff. It is claimed that a better effect would have been obtained if the bars of gold wire braid had been placed at the junction of the cuff with the sleeve proper instead of two and one-half inches from the end of the sleeve. This would have brought the rank insignia, indicated by flat gold braid, above the elbow and would have given a less squatly appearance than is now the case, it is said.

There continues, of course, to be criticism of the frock coat which is retained for mounted and dismounted officers. Colonel J. D. Bingham proposed that the dress coat should be something on the style of the colonial garment, without, of course, the buff facings. This will be recalled, has a cutaway effect of the skirts. The belt could be worn underneath the coat, an arrangement which would enable the tailor to make a better fit and one of greater convenience in the case of officers who are repeatedly stated, does not lend itself easily to the figure of a man who is not of normal proportions. The stout man and the thin man have about equal right to complain, as neither of them appears to sartorial advantage in such a coat.

Of course, it was not to be expected that the uniform regulations would meet with approval on every side and it is something of an achievement for the army authorities that the members have wrought so satisfactorily. The suggestion has been made that perhaps the board would have found it useful to have invited competitive designs from tailors and other experts in military apparel. This, to the minds of some people, seems to offer the hope that the uniform regulations, as they are, are conclusions by original propositions which would have resulted in the adoption of a uniform at once original and distinctive. There might have been a temptation on the part of such advisers, however, to have suggested something as radical as the vision of uniform regulations as to have invited the tailors the greatest pecuniary results. The board was guided in its findings apparently by the very commendable desire not to add more than was absolutely necessary to the expense of individual officers, notably those of the junior grades, all of whom must be put to the personal cost of equipping themselves with the new service habillment.

One of the complaints made by army officers against the new uniform arises from the number of hats and caps required. In the case of general officers and officers of staff corps and departments the headgear will comprise eight pieces of different styles, and in the case of all other officers there will be seven pieces. They are the campaign hat, which will be worn by general and staff officers, the full dress cap, the dress cap, the white cap, the service cap, the white helmet, the service helmet and the service hat. There has been some comment also made on the use of the expression "service" in conjunction with different articles of apparel. It is pointed out that "service" is a very general term which might well apply to all parts of the military habillment and that a more accurately descriptive adjective would have been "campaign" or "campaign" as such would be worn in the field and on campaigns, and during operations.

A provision of the new uniform regulations which is meeting with a good deal of favor is that which substitutes German silver for steel and brass for the guard and scabbard of the saber of all officers "except chaplains." The new metal will give the effect of silver and steel, but will be lighter in weight and easier to keep clean than the material formerly employed.

There seems to be a general misconception among army officers respecting the employment of the term "kaki" in the uniform regulations as applied to the uniforms commonly known as khaki. The term is intended to apply to the present khaki suit worn in hot weather and at tropical stations as well as to the new woolen material which is of slightly deeper shade than the present khaki uniform, which is now provided to meet the necessities imposed by the retention of the algulette as a part of the uniform of certain officers of the army recalls the fact that much mystery has always surrounded the origin and significance of this elaborate device. It has commonly been accepted that the algulette was originally a cord which supported a patch used by aids and adjutants in writing military orders and dispatches. Its utility, of course, has long since ceased and it has become only an attractive ornamentation. The clothing experts of our army have possibly discovered the origin of the algulette; at any rate they have run across an ancient tradition which might be accepted as bearing with veracity upon the subject. It seems that the Spanish duke of Alva many years ago had cause to complain of the conduct of a body of Flemish troops. He issued orders that in view of the misconduct on the part of these troops the military officers should be punished by hanging wherever they were found, without regard to rank or grade. The Flemish soldiers replied that to facilitate the execution of this order they would hereafter wear on the shoulder a rope to which would be attached a convenient number of apples, and they consequently adopted, but their subsequent conduct became so brilliant and exemplary, it is said, that this rope and its pendant apples were transformed into a braid of passementerie and became a badge of honor to be worn by officers of princely households and others who were of noble birth and distinguished career. In our own army the algulette, which may or may not be the descendant of the Alva decoration, will be worn by adjutants general, inspectors general, officers of the record and pension office, aides to general officers, regimental adjutants and the adjutants of the artillery districts.

The abandonment of the Geneva cross as an emblem for the army medical department is in reality a return to the insignia, that of the caduceus, worn prior to the Geneva convention. The emblem has always had a significance which makes its adoption by our medical department peculiarly fitting. The new uniform regulations provide that in time of war with a signatory of the Geneva convention all persons in the military service equipped in the terms of that convention will wear a brassard of white cloth with a Geneva cross of red cloth in the center. This emblem will be worn on the left arm above the elbow while on the field of opera-

SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

How Mrs. Bruce, a Noted Opera Singer, Escaped an Operation. Proof That Many Operations for Ovarian Troubles are Unnecessary.

"DEAR Mrs. FINKHAM:—Travelling for years on the road, with irregular meals and sleep and damp beds, broke down my health so completely two years ago that the physician advised a complete rest, and when I had gained



MRS. BRUCE.

sufficient vitality, an operation for ovarian troubles. Not a very cheerful prospect, to be sure. I, however, was advised to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Sanative Wafers, and did so. I was very much surprised. Before a month had passed I felt that my general health had improved; in three months more I was cured, and I have been in perfect health since. I did not lose an engagement or miss a meal.

"Your Vegetable Compound is certainly wonderful, and well worthy the praise your admiring friends who have been cured are ready to give you. I always speak highly of it, and you will admit I have good reason to do so."—Mrs. G. BRUCE, Lansing, Mich. Perfect if above testimonial is not genuine.

The fullest counsel on this subject can be obtained without cost by writing to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be entirely confidential.

EVIL OF BETTING. Degenerate Practice that Appears to Be Making New Headway. Chicago News. When a man bets his money on the result of a horse race, or of any other contest, he does it because he wishes to get some other person's money through his own superior abilities or good fortune. The plea that excitement is the main consideration in making the bet falls to the ground when one considers the chagrin with which the loser views the outcome of his venture. Yet bookmakers and gambling house proprietors amass fortunes, while their patrons in a vast majority of cases see the money they risk depart from them forever. The fascination of the thought of large winnings of other people's money is irresistible to many thousands of persons. That the customary losses lead to crippled fortunes and even to embezzlements in many instances, while less tragic injuries are suffered in innumerable other instances, is a matter of common knowledge. Yet the betting fever grows apace.

To many persons who do not appreciate the harmful nature of the vice, feeling secure in their own persons so far as bankruptcy or fortune or morals is concerned, the vulgarity of striving to get other people's money should serve as a reason for giving up the practice. "That's mine is my own; what's yours is mine." Therefore, why bet? Culture is an uncomprehending enemy of the betting vice. The distractions which attend the unlovely game of trying to get another man's money on a bet dissipate thought, which must be concentrated on some useful purpose to be of any value to its possessor. As an economic waste of mental energy the betting evil costs even more dearly than in actual cash squandered from private fortunes, weekly wages or employer's till.

The sooner a general public accepts this wholesome view the better for honest industry of every sort.

SAID TO BE FUNNY. Chicago News. Little Willie-Pa, who was it that said "Dead men tell no tales"? Pa—Some automobile fender, probably.

New York Sun: Johnny-Pa, what's the difference between a woman and a fortune? Henkelt—I should think it would be easier to silence a fort.

Yonkers Statesman: "Do you know the amount of money that a father purpose to run each year?" replied the prohibitionist. "No," replied the man addressed, "I'm interested in the price which staggers humanity."

Philadelphia Press: "I don't suppose it's very expensive to keep a horse down in your country." replied the Texan, "It's as much as your life is worth to even take one."

Life: "Mother, can I go in swimming?" "When and how?" "Yesterday, if you please."

Washington Star: "It seems to me," said the man from the east, "that you stand a great deal more from that man who just left you than you stand from anybody else."

"Who?" answered Flute Foe, "we've got to. He's one of our usefulest citizens, and if he gets arrogant he knows he's in a place where we can't resist a force. If anybody stop the drop on him it would stump us for shore."

"The only undertaker in two hundred miles."

TOO LATE. Youth's Companion. The summer wind blew softly; wide open stood the door. To let the worn old body pass through, and out into the world. For the soul had gone before it to find that distant bourne. From which the farmer traveler need nevermore return.

And the farmer-son stood gazing upon the placid face. Which nevertheless must meet him from its accustomed place; And a tremor shook his body, as a tree when a wind has blown from anybody else. And beneath the sunshine's bronzing his face was deathly pale.

"What would you, dear, to shake so, when you look at father's face?" "I've a hunch to let him, how his hand would clasp and cling. I'd give the farm, the orchard, the cows, the bees, the money, for one more day with 'father here alive!'"