

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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NEW EFFORTS FOR STATEHOOD

Not discouraged by their failure at the last session of congress, the representatives of the territories seeking statehood are preparing to vigorously push their claims before the present congress...

same confidence in the pledges of this government as it has hitherto enjoyed? These and other considerations make highly interesting the question raised by the British demand...

WORK OF THE GRAND JURY

After a session of nearly six weeks the federal grand jury has completed its labors and taken final adjournment. From the beginning to the close this body has attracted more than local attention...

The indictment of Senator Charles H. Dietrich was an event of national magnitude by reason of his position and the nature of the charges brought against him. The indictments of the heads of several big cattle syndicates for illegal fencing of the public domain were the sequence of investigations instituted by the Department of the Interior...

DEMOCRATS MAY MEET FIRST

The democratic national committee will meet in Washington, January 12, to decide upon the time and place for holding the national convention of 1904. It is said that it will be proposed by the more aggressive men in the committee that the precedent of allowing the party in power to hold its convention first be broken...

THE NEW MINISTER TO PANAMA

The new minister to Panama was originally an Iowan—but the public has ceased to be surprised by such news as that.

The senators have stopped talking long enough to ratify the Chinese treaty—which is something of a surprise to the people.

The Congress of Mothers also has taken up arms against Reed Smoot, but it is observed that the unmarried women are keeping mighty mum.

The persistency of his allusions to the treaty of 1846 forces the conviction that General Reyes has overlooked the many, many things that have happened since.

The projected grain market and a greater demand for grain for home consumption in mills and factories should go hand in hand. Push them all together.

Another puzzling question that is up to the county board is where to find room in the court house for an office for the county assessor and his corps of assistants.

The Louisiana Purchase has been under the Stars and Stripes just a hundred years. What better object lesson could be had of what a land of liberty can accomplish?

Omaha retail merchants have a right to be proud of their holiday displays. It's a fastidious shopper who can not be suited by them in variety, quality, quantity and price.

Cincinnati left his plow in the field. Mrs. Manning, with womanly instinct, lets the great St. Louis fair wait while she covers the furniture and carries the cat to a neighbor's.

The Bartley bond case has once more bobbed up in the supreme court, but the Bartley cigar box and its historic contents is still in the possession of the man of the iron mask.

The secretary of war has decided to drop the matter of General MacArthur's reference to probable hostilities with Germany, so it will not really matter whether the public does or does not.

Now that the federal grand jury has adjourned The Bee is in position to turn the searchlight upon District Attorney Summers and his methods without subjecting its editors and reporters to an indictment for an alleged attempt to impede justice.

The Nebraska supreme court has promulgated a few new rules for the guidance of attorneys conducting litigation before that tribunal. The court reserves the right, however, to modify the rules without waiting for anyone to move for a rehearing.

It is true that the supreme court has upheld the validity of the new revenue law, but it has not yet expressed its opinion of the 50 per cent penalty clause. It would be a good thing for the authorities to go slow with the penalty business while the law is new.

After all the hitch in the sale of the 4 1/2 per cent refunding bonds has not been a great calamity. The disposal of the bonds at a premium of \$7,500 above par would seem to justify the racket raised about the peculiar course pursued by eastern bond speculators in connection with this deal.

destroyed by the floods. An outsider has the privilege of believing, however, that if the property of the bank were at stake through peculations of some of its employes the books would be unearthed somewhere and afford sufficient data to show how much was stolen. This is plainly another case depending on whose ox is gored.

According to agreement, the report on the nomination of General Wood will be made up on the reconvening of the senate after the holidays, when the fight will be transferred from the committee room to the floor. If the nomination were only subject to discussion in open session we might expect a protracted debate with spectacular appeals to the gallery, but inasmuch as it will come up behind closed doors and the public will get only what percolates through the cracks, there is reason to hope that the controversy will then be settled one way or the other without much further delay.

One thing the federal grand jury did not appear anxious to investigate and that is the fairly established charge that the United States district attorney had procured railroad passes for the members of the grand jury that was in session in Omaha twelve months ago when they adjourned for a Christmas vacation to return after Christmas to do nothing and were allowed to draw their pay for mileage with the connivance of this same district attorney. It was too tender a spot to investigate.

American exports to British South Africa are increasing year by year, but there is still room for considerable expansion without crowding the Britons out. At the same time it would not be a bad idea for us to see that we get what belongs to us in the way of trade in the Philippines without letting the British and the Germans in too far.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The diplomatic importance of Great Britain's move in the direction of Tibet lies in its significance as a counter check upon the Russian policy in Manchuria and a possible effective diversion calculated to turn the Muscovite eyes away from the prey in the north. The delicate game of chess which Russian and Britain have been playing with Persia, Afghanistan and the khanate of southern Turkistan as the board is given a new aspect by this sudden move of the British castle. Were Russia to gain ascendancy over Tibet instead of its antagonist it would have China in a vise, the two jaws of which would be Tibet and Manchuria. Moreover, it would then stretch its length along the entire northeastern boundary of the coveted Indian empire.

Patriotism with Fee Attached.

While the number of applications on file for pensions for survivors of the Spanish war is only a little over 200,000, it will not be the fault of the patriotic pension attorneys if the half million mark is not passed soon.

Promoting Trouble.

A man has been inventoried for making a permanent record of telephone conversations. If that thing comes into general use it means more work for the divorce courts and many other embarrassing complications.

Hint to the "August Senate."

The difference in length between open and secret sessions of the senate suggests that, if the senate would consent to do its talking in executive session, the business of the country would be very considerably expedited.

Perish the Thought!

Attorney General Knox still persists in holding that there is more or less water in Northern Securities stock. What a skeptical person he is! Long ago Mr. Hill explained that there was no water in the stock.

Is There a Second?

Nobody among the salary slaves will second the motion of Mr. Carroll D. Wright to abolish the wage system. If it were to handle the business and keep all the books, the fellow who gives up the wage system will have little left.

Home Comforts on the Rail.

A great western railroad system announces that its new cars are equipped with all the conveniences of a modern flat. It must not be gathered from this, however, that they are fatted; or that there will be a family above with a piano and a family below with a phonograph.

Too Much War Talk.

Mr. Root's explanation that he did not predict a war "soon" between the United States and some foreign power, but merely in the future at some indefinite time, recalls the remark of a certain indulgent widower in wild talk. It may be asked, however, why it is necessary for him to predict war at all? He goes to various public dinners and meetings, and in his speeches assumes that sooner or later this country will surely get into a great war. Doubtless Mr. Root's motive is to emphasize the necessity of preparation for emergencies. But to those possibly too idealistic people who hope that wars will cease without many more military cataclysms, the kind of talk that Mr. Root indulges in is disagreeable. The fatalism of his talk about future war is injurious to its effect upon the public mind, because the public is thus educated to the false notion that war is a normal and necessary crisis of society at frequent intervals, and can never be outgrown.

American Goods Abroad.

The exports for November are a trifle above those of October, and are decidedly in excess of the exports in any previous month except October three years ago. The exports of the last two months, very nearly \$21,000,000, are much larger than the exports of any previous two months. The imports last month were less than those of any previous month since June, 1902. The exports for twelve months ended November 30 have exceeded but once, in the twelve months ended November, 1901. The excess of exports in the last twelve months and in the eleven months of the calendar year, have been several times exceeded, because imports have been increasing in the last two or three years. The excess of exports over imports in the last seven months, however, is more than \$4,000,000 greater than the excess in the corresponding portion of last year. Imports in the last seven months increased nearly \$2,000,000, but the exports increased more than \$6,000,000.

Good Health to the Children. At this season the children are eating dainties, and the housekeeper must look specially to their food. As good cake can be made only with good eggs, so also a cake that is healthful as well as dainty must be raised with a pure and perfect baking powder.

Royal Baking Powder is indispensable in the preparation of the highest quality of food. It imparts that peculiar lightness, sweetness and flavor noticed in the finest cake, biscuit, doughnuts, crusts, etc., and what is more important renders the food wholesome and agreeable to young and old.

SECURITIES AND INSECURITIES.

Far-Reaching Harm Done by Sale of Bogus Stock. Did Justice Peter S. Grosscup of the United States circuit court, then whom a higher authority upon corporate law could hardly be cited, exaggerate the facts when he said to the Chicago Merchants club?

The greater the truth the greater the lie, seems to be the rule in Germany. Having disposed of the case of Lieutenant Blise, German papers are turning their attention to the case of Dr. Ries, head master of the gymnasium in Oldenburg. Ries, it seems, wrote a series of articles for a local paper in which he denounced the high play augurs who got on in the capital of the duchy, and particularly denounced the minister of justice. The latter was accused of gambling in public places in contravention of the law, and, more serious, was accused of enticing young men and young officers to the gambling tables. To his account Ries laid several suicides which have occurred lately among the youth of the city. Ries was sentenced to six months imprisonment and the publisher to ten. As in the case of "Life in a Small Garrison," there is no truth about the various charges and a formal investigation is likely to be the result.

MATRIMONIAL SIDE OF PENSIONS.

Surprising Longevity of the Widows of War Veterans. One of the serious facts in connection with the pension roll is the variation in what may be called the matrimonial habit of the warriors in the several wars. Thus, of the Revolutionary war, which closed 120 years ago, there are no survivors, but there are drawing pension two widows.

The gradual growth of the importance of Algiers as a coaling station is encouraging the French to make special efforts to make a great commercial harbor of Biserta. The French consul at Gibraltar reports that there is a growing tendency among vessels plying in the Mediterranean to take in coal at Biserta instead of at the British port. Whereas, the quantity of coal furnished at Gibraltar shows a steady decline, from 650,000 tons in 1890 to 167,000 last year, the amount of coal disposed of at Algiers during the same period increased from 61,000 to 397,000 tons. Regarding the project of a railway from the coast mines to Biserta, the Chamber of Commerce of the latter port has just addressed a communication to M. Combes, containing that the sacrifices made by France in the protectorate will prove fruitless unless a railway be constructed which will place the port of Biserta in a position to furnish return freights. As long ago as last March a resolution was passed by the Societe des Etudes Coloniales et Maritimes, advocating the construction of a railway for the transport of the minerals from Jebel Ouenna to Biserta. In the opinion of the association such railway would attract to that port the coal boats that now proceed to Malta, while the French naval station would in return receive the coal necessary for the navy, for commerce and for the metallurgical works which it is proposed to found there. The existence of an important coal depot, it is thought, would create at Biserta a genuine commercial port, of great value, for the victualing of war vessels, the supply of labor and other purposes. It is thought that Cardiff boats would bring coal at very low rates in return for full cargoes.

The latest overflow of the Neva is but another warning to the inhabitants of St. Petersburg of what may happen to them in the event of a long series of westerly gales in the gulf of Finland. This flood (9 feet 5 inches) is the most serious that has occurred since 1877, when the Neva rose 19 feet 7 inches above its ordinary level. The great inundation of 1854 was the most disastrous on record. On that occasion the river rose 12 feet 8 inches above its normal level and inundated the whole urban area of St. Petersburg. The Katharine, Elizabeth and Obvodni canals all have basins for the reception of surplus waters, but they are of little practical value, as is shown in the present instance. There are two other canals planned, the Mollie-

and the Fontanka, but these are not furnished with overflow basins. All the islands, which are of alluvial origin, are very low. Their highest points do not rise more than 10 feet 4 inches above the average level of the Neva, and the mainland is very little higher than the islands. It is a common occurrence for the streets in parts of the Vauili Ostroff to be flooded during the winter.

That a larger proportion of the married sailors have died.

Examples of such "bogus securities" as Justice Grosscup refers to are fresh in the public mind. There is the \$7,000,000 of water in the \$70,000,000 Shipbuilding company which Mr. Morgan and Mr. Schwab arranged with Harris, Gates & Co. to sell at \$5 and \$3 a share, and which is now worth nothing; there is the \$800,000,000 or more of "flat values" attempted with such disastrous result in the Steel trust; there are the shares of the Northern Securities company, which sought to add the capital of two great competing railroads, making five out of two plus two, and whose validity the supreme court is even now considering; there are Sugar and Copper and Chewing Gum; Ice trust, Asphalt trust and Cady's trust. And the total nominal capitalization of the "industrialists" alone, leaving out the vast railroad mergers, equals about \$100 for every man, woman and child in the United States. Truly a mass of "bogus securities" that may well justify Justice Grosscup's emphasis.

Whether the existence of the trusts would still be contrary to public policy and interest if honestly capitalized is a question upon which men may differ. But there can be no question that the evils of monopolistic mergers would be greatly lessened if Justice Grosscup's suggestion of government supervision as rigorous as that of the national banks were enforced to prevent manifest robbery.

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