

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, A. D. 1903. M. B. Notary Public.

Iowa legislators decline to be driven from home even by fire.

What would General Jackson say to the Jacksonians if he were alive today?

Douglas county roads and bridges seem to be the highways by which the pet contractors tap the taxpayers.

The South Omaha Live Stock exchange has a right to change its mind as well as to change its rule.

A new record price has just been established in wholesale which ought to gladden the hearts of the dress reform agitators.

Down in Missouri, grand jury indictments for boodling are becoming so frequent that an office holder feels slighted if he does not get one.

It is exceedingly doubtful whether General Jackson would have entrenched himself and his army behind cotton bales with cotton at 15 cents a pound.

Wonder if those policemen are not stationed about Carter Harrison's home to prevent any one getting to him with a presidential nomination.

The Deseret News has ceased its special news service on the missing Perry Heath owing to Mr. Heath's unwillingness to stay away and let the News have its play out.

Accepting all rumors and threats at face value, the grain market is considerably more active than the sparrow and for ups and downs has the office elevator clearly outclassed.

Senator Dietrich is acquitted on technicalities, but the only hope of the prosecution was to convict him on technicalities. Perhaps it is horse and horse.

The next move for Colombia to make in the canal imbroglio is to recognize the Republic of Panama and begin negotiations for a share of the indemnity money.

The anniversary of the Chicago fire holocaust might suitably be designated for an annual inspection of theaters in every city in the country. Let us forget its lessons.

If no better expedient presents, the county board might have the court house equipped with straps, a la street car, for the accommodation of officials and clerks who can not find desk room.

The home-coming reception to Colonel Bryan is to be a strictly nonpartisan uprising of the common people—except that the unrepentant democratic bolters of 1890 and 1900 are specifically invited to stay away.

At last it is beginning to dawn upon the people of Omaha that the compulsory water works purchase act, known as the Howell bill, was a most pernicious piece of legislation, just as The Bee predicted it would be when it was pending.

The sudden darkness enveloping the senate wing of the capitol at Washington is explained by a fire in one of the electrical ducts. But the senators are frequently groping in the dark even when the machinery for electrical illumination is in perfect working order.

The city of Omaha is paying out a lot of money in preparation for the new scavenger tax collection law on a chance that the law may not stand fire in the courts. Would it not be a good idea to have a test case decided first before making expenditures that may possibly prove useless later? Here is a chance for the city attorney to do something toward earning his salary.

ACQUITTAL OF SENATOR DIETRICH.

The quashing by instruction of the court of the indictments presented against Senator Charles H. Dietrich by the late federal grand jury at the instance of District Attorney Summers is an acquittal before the regularly constituted court of justice. It is to be regretted by Senator Dietrich's friends that the conditions under which the cases had to be tried prevented him from securing at the same time a clean cut acquittal before the court of public opinion. It is manifest by this time to every unprejudiced man that the prosecution of Senator Dietrich was part of a malicious and deliberate plot on the part of District Attorney Summers to destroy the force of the senator's opposition to his reappointment to office, but the charges, reinforced by the endorsement of a grand jury indictment and advertised far and wide in the public press, will leave Senator Dietrich at decided disadvantage without the vindication which a trial of the cases on their merits, free from technical obstructions ought to have given him.

It is thus seen that this decision of the highest judicial tribunal is of the very greatest importance. It does not mean that the people of our insular possessions are citizens of the United States, entitled to all the prerogatives and rights of citizens, but it does mean that they are a part of our people who may properly claim a right to the protection and care of our government. In other words they are an element of the nation which we are bound to take care of.

OUR OWN PEOPLE. They are not necessarily citizens of the United States, and yet so far as entering the country is concerned they are entitled to the same rights and privileges as a native American.

This is the only conclusion, so far as we can see, to be drawn from the decision of the supreme court. A Porto Rican, under that decision, has as undisputed a right to come into the United States as any American citizen living in Porto Rico, and unmistakably the same principle applies to the people of the Philippines. If the people of Porto Rico are not aliens and consequently are entitled to come freely into the United States, it is perfectly clear that the same principle applies to the people of the Philippines, who can come into the United States as they please without interference or hindrance.

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THE "ONLY CANDIDATE."

According to Mr. Olney the only available candidate of the democratic party is Grover Cleveland. There are some other democrats who believe this and who are more or less persistent in advancing their views. On the other hand there are a great many thousands of the members of that party, among them leaders of force and power, who insist that Mr. Cleveland is an impossibility and that if he should be nominated he would be overwhelmingly defeated.

There is no question that Grover Cleveland is today stronger than any other man with the masses of the democratic party. His prestige of two terms in the presidency is something which the average democrat has an intense appreciation of. He naturally thinks of it as a matter of glory to his party that it cannot easily be overvalued. And perhaps he is right. At any rate the country knows this, that as the result of the last administration of Mr. Cleveland we had a most complete demonstration of the fact that democratic policy was the very worst that could possibly be applied in this country and it was repudiated overwhelmingly as soon as the people got an opportunity to give a verdict upon it.

In his speech at the dinner in New York a few days ago Mr. Olney, who was attorney general and secretary of state in the last Cleveland administration, declared that in his opinion Mr. Cleveland is the one man to lead the democratic party to victory in this year's campaign. The affection of Mr. Olney for his former chief can be easily understood. Their mutual admiration is by no means remarkable. But it is more than likely that the Massachusetts statesman, who obtained his first prominence in the last democratic administration and might never have been known of except for that, has an exaggerated idea of the man who gave him his distinction. At any rate, this can be positively asserted, that only a very small element in the democratic party is in accord with the Olney idea that Grover Cleveland is the only man who can lead the democracy in this year's campaign with a reasonable show of winning.

The prestige of Grover Cleveland was destroyed eight years ago. It cannot be revived. He understands that better than any of his foolish followers and therefore he says that he is not a candidate for the democratic nomination. It is somewhat remarkable that a man of the ability of Mr. Olney should still cling to the idea that there is any chance for the democratic party in the nomination of Mr. Cleveland.

HARRIMAN AND THE UNION PACIFIC.

The election of Edward H. Harriman to the presidency of the Union Pacific railroad was foreordained and foretold, consequently it creates no surprise either among railway men or business men of this community. As chairman of the board of directors, Mr. Harriman has in reality been the executive head of the Union Pacific system and his relations to the road are not materially changed by the assumption of the presidential title. Mr. Harriman is above all things a keen, progressive business man who realizes that the prosperity of his transcontinental system depends largely upon the good will and prosperity of its patrons. It goes without saying that Mr. Harriman is as fully alive to the immediate and future wants of the region west of the Missouri traversed by the Union Pacific railroad as he is familiar with their resources and possibilities of future development. Mr. Harriman and his financial associates, the owners of the Union Pacific, are not engaged in railroad for the sake of humanity, or as a matter of benevolence. They have acquired the properties and expended millions for their improvement because they have confidence in their ability to make them profitable as an investment. Everything that can be done for the upbuilding of the section tributary to the Union Pacific will doubtless be done by Mr. Harriman directly as has been done under his direction by President Burt.

While Omaha is no longer dependent upon any single railroad system, the Union Pacific has been and will always remain its main artery of commerce. Omaha business men are fully impressed with this fact and they are not likely to engage in any conflict or controversy with the Union Pacific, whoever may be at its head, unless they are compelled to by unbearable conditions. For that reason President Harriman may rest assured of the cordial support of Omaha in any measure or scheme

THAT tends to promote the well-being of the great transcontinental.

Comptroller Lobbeck, who has for years been an advocate of the municipal ownership of the water works, made this declaration at the West Side Improvement club meeting:

The law passed by the last legislature which provides for the purchase of the water plant by the city killed the usual appropriation for maintenance of this water system and nothing can be done to afford relief to this section of the city that is now sadly in need of water supply. The city is in the most helpless state of any municipality I ever heard of. Before the law was passed empowering the city to purchase the water works it could have done so with very little trouble, but the act which was framed ostensibly to afford relief cut off all hope of the city acquiring the plant for the present.

This is precisely what might have been expected and the amazing thing about it is that thousands of Omaha business men and taxpayers allowed themselves to be hoodwinked into endorsing the water works purchase bill by which the city was placed in the helpless position it now occupies.

It seems to be becoming customary for the railroad officials to have a premonition of an impending wreck and to start out medical attendants by special train in advance of the actual catastrophe. If they would only have their premonitions early enough they might send the surgeon's staff along with the doomed train and be sure to have the medical corps on the spot at the critical moment.

In the death of General Victor Vifquain Nebraska has lost one of the most sturdy and patriotic pioneers. General Vifquain was one of the very few Nebraskans who had served with more than ordinary distinction in two wars and was the only Nebraska veteran who received a medal of honor from congress for gallantry in defense of the flag in the war for the preservation of the union.

ONE small chunk of the new Nebraska revenue law has been found to interfere with interstate commerce and is therefore pronounced dead by the supreme court.

Now, can't the insurance companies who object so strenuously to paying state taxes figure out some way by which they can get relief by the interstate commerce route?

General Funston denies the reports of starvation in Alaska. These annual hard times stories are promulgated regularly every time some stranded Klondike adventurer wants to get free board from Uncle Sam until he can work his way back to warmth and civilization.

A TRIUMPHANT INVASION.

It now transpires that there has been an actual Colombian invasion, but that the sole result was the capture of one Indian chief who wasn't asking and who wasn't particularly needed at the time, anyway.

Shearing the Lambs.

So the dividend on United States Steel comes in favor of the stockholders. The insiders could dispose of their stock, then scaled to 2 per cent, has now been passed entirely. And it is not the insiders who hold the bag.

Roll of Railroad Officials.

The attempt of the Rock Island officials in Topeka to "suppress" the news of the wreck in which twenty or more lives were lost succeeded fully as well as an effort would succeed to conceal the June flood behind a boxcar.

Statesmen Shrink a Little.

Many of the new congressmen who furnished full page biographies of themselves for the senior edition of "The Congressional Directory" have evidently repented their facility in self-portraiture. In the newer edition many cuts of these ingenious self glorifications are noticeable. This is not to be wondered at, for there is no experience more likely to impress upon a man with a full sense of his own inconsequence than a first struggle with the rules, precedents and customs of our great and glorious house of representatives.

Evaporation in Steel.

Mr. Morgan's billion-dollar steel trust passes the dividend on its common stock with a matter-of-course air which is hardly consistent with the idea prevalent at one time that a wizard of finance was behind it. The stock market evaporated a good deal of the water in steel at the very outset and mismanagement and declining business have drawn off most of the remainder. Mr. Morgan's financiering in this case appears to have followed the old familiar lines both in its method and in its result. The great trick of lifting one's self over a fence by one's bootstraps is no nearer than it was in the days when Mr. Morgan was unknown.

Only One Question at Issue.

The governor of Michigan, one Bliss, should recognize the fitness of things and resign. A notorious bank wrecker has been pardoned by him, and he attempts to shield himself from the shadow of a political notice who got the prize at the National Live Stock exposition in Chicago? Challenor, "half Hereford and half Nebraskan," fed and owned by the university, "the great champion steer." As Colonel F. M. Woods says proudly "this is the greatest event for Nebraska." It is a still greater event for the University of Nebraska. Hear Colonel Woods once more:

"He (Challenor) is our trump, and the University of Nebraska in producing him has feathered its cap for all time." Bull for Challenor, the University of Nebraska and university beef! But where is Crane? He is a forehand chap. He ought to send a check and an apology to the breeders of the champion steer.

The Champion Steer.

Where is that Chicago man Crane, who has such a scorn of college men? Has he watched the work of Dr. Elsie Benjamin Andrews' University of Nebraska? Did he notice who got the prize at the National Live Stock exposition in Chicago? Challenor, "half Hereford and half Nebraskan," fed and owned by the university, "the great champion steer." As Colonel F. M. Woods says proudly "this is the greatest event for Nebraska." It is a still greater event for the University of Nebraska. Hear Colonel Woods once more:

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POLITICAL DRIFT.

Prof. Henry Loomis Nelson of Williams college is put down as the chief booster of the Olney boom.

Major Seth L. W. accompanied by Mrs. L. W. will leave New York January 19 for a three months' tour in Europe.

William J. Bryan has purchased at Salem, Ill. the old homestead in which he was born. His timbers were hewn by Colonel Bryan's father half a century ago.

The political papers of the New York Sun furnish mighty interesting reading, particularly its profound respect for the person whom Charles A. Dana described as "the stuffed prophet of Williams street."

Mayor McClellan of New York occupies nearly half an hour each morning walking to his office. He says that he needs the exercise, and whereas he usually walks to the capitol each morning, he is a healthy looking young man and seems capable of any amount of work.

Colonel Waterston sneeringly remarks that Cleveland is merely "an atom of history," yet millions of the untried think he is the only atom to lead them from the slaughter house and the grave. Imagine what will happen when that 300-pound atom blows away.

The Philadelphia Record insinuates that Wayne McVough would make mighty fine presidential timber for the democratic party this month. He is a former member of the Pennsylvania legislature and is esteemed in Pennsylvania for his public and personal qualities. Says the Record, "that his nomination might make this a doubtful state."

Judge John T. Hodge of Newport, Ky., has offered to serve as county judge of Campbell county with compensation for his term, but will turn over the salary to the family of Judge-Elect John P. Newman, who died a few days before he was to have the office. Mr. Hodge was Newman's competitor in the election last November.

Once more rumor (this time more reliable) tells us that David B. Hill, ex-governor and ex-senator of New York, has surrendered to cupid and that ere long an announcement will be made of his engagement to one of New York City's best known widows. Mr. Hill's name was given as the only man in the city who has ten years ago and there is every indication that the young woman had deep admiration for the bachelor statesman. Of late, when Mr. Hill visits New York City, he never fails to call upon the talented widow whose name is not so frequently linked with his. Another story is to the effect that his silk hat is always glossy now, his gloves always new and his clothes always fitting.

A LEADERLESS PARTY.

"Ye that Have Tears to Shed Prepare to Shed Them Now."

Nothing could illustrate better the anomalous condition in which the democratic party finds itself than the fact that now, within less than six months of the quadrennial conventions, the question where a candidate shall be found is so much a mystery as it was two years ago. The dinner given by Tammany in New York Monday evening was meant to be a love feast. Invitations had been sent to most of the party leaders and, while the candidates eligible for nomination remained away, the "organizers" were well represented. It is in fact no slight cause for wonder that the democrats of such widely divergent views and proclivities as Richard Olney, David B. Hill and Bourke Cockran found it expedient to meet on a footing of fraternal interest and amity. Yet, so far as the published extracts from the speeches indicate, there was not one demonstration of interest in any candidate and the recipient of that honor was the one man whom the majority of the democratic party believes to have retired permanently from politics.

The fact that Mr. Olney's outward declaration in favor of Cleveland, and his assertion that the former president was the only man who could lead the party to victory elicited one definite expression from those present is significant. It tends to revive the question whether, after all, it is possible that the democracy is going to turn to its former leader in spite of his self and of his "unliterate and conciliatory" determination not to consider the question. Were there a single eligible candidate of commanding personality in the field it is hardly probable that Mr. Cleveland's name would be mentioned in such a connection. That his name will come before the convention still seems wholly unlikely. The fact remains that as time goes on none of the new leaders appears to be gaining strength and as yet no "dark horse" has been found who shows ability to make a winning fight against the heavy odds with which the next democratic nominee will have to contend.

The importance attached to Mr. Cleveland's attitude is, of course, a high compliment to him, but in the circumstances it is an even more eloquent reminder of the leaderless condition of his party.

THE WORLD'S GOLD PRODUCTION.

High Mark of the Prophets Still in the Distance.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The world's output of gold for the calendar year 1902, which has recently been compiled by the director of the mint at Washington from the final returns of the very interesting reading. Australasia heads all the other countries in the list, with an output of \$1,000,000, the United States being second, with \$800,000,000; Africa third, with \$250,000,000, Canada fourth, with \$200,000,000, Mexico fifth, with \$100,000,000. The rest of the localities, all of which are below Mexico's mark, make up the rest of the \$2,000,000,000 which is put down as the world's output for that year. The silver output for 1902 is placed at \$1,000,000,000. Of course, the Africa mentioned here is practically the Rand district alone, which furnishes four-fifths or more of the entire output of the yellow metal of the Dark Continent. Canada's production means, chiefly, that of the Klondike region. There was an increase of about \$2,000,000 in the gold output of the world in 1902, as compared with the previous year. The high-water mark, \$2,750,000,000, in production was reached in 1893, the year in which, in its closing months, the Boer war began. By closing the mines in the Transvaal, and thus reducing the world's supply by \$50,000,000 or more annually, the production figures shrank in the next few years, even though the Rand increase alone is sure to make up the deficiency in the United States and help to swell the yield to more than \$2,000,000,000. The scrambling for gold between the nations, which Bryan eloquently expatiated on a few years ago, has ended.

Dig, Brothers, Dig.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. According to estimates made by the engineers, it will take at least thirty years to complete the Panama canal, no matter if Senator Morgan should never make another oppositional speech.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The French Chamber has, in accord with M. Etienne's report, just adopted the bill for the construction of a railway, seventy kilometers long, from Tiemcen to the Moorish frontier at Lalla Maghrnia. This is generally regarded as the first step in that policy of the "specific penetration" of Morocco which seems to have been accepted by all parties in France. It is understood that to put an end to the anarchy prevailing in Morocco, the first essential is to relieve the sultan from his financial embarrassments, and the French, says a writer in the Paris Temps, are quite disposed to advance the necessary amount of money if they can obtain guarantees that it shall not be squandered, but shall be employed in the establishment of a permanent police force, capable of insuring the regular working of the administration. When safety of life and property is assured, says the Temps, the moment will arrive for the execution of public works, such as railways, which are the most powerful instruments of civilization in a barbarous country. But to serve the interests of France, adds the writer, the Moorish railways must be connected with those of Algeria. The Tiemcen-Lalla Maghrnia line is designed to be the link between them, and to a certain degree, pledges the French Parliament to pursue the project of building railways in Morocco, and of ending North Africa with a grand trunk railway extending from Tunis to the Atlantic.

Among the things unexpected that are quite likely to happen in the near future is the development in Central Africa of an electrical power plant that will be the largest in the world, leaving that at Niagara Falls as a bad second. The enterprise has been carefully considered by engineers and is reported to be entirely feasible. The region known to men of the present generation as "Dark Africa" may possess within a few years the most stupendous source of electrical energy that human enterprise has been able to establish at Victoria Falls, and will be of enormous value to the country, where there is a great lack of coal and suitable wood for fuel purposes. The region around the falls is rich in resources of many kinds, but its exploitation has been financially impossible because every manufactured article used in the development of any kind of industry has to be imported at heavy cost. The operation of electrical power generated by the great falls will provide means for establishing manufactures in the country itself and thus promote its exploitation in every direction.

With the Princess Mathilde Bonaparte into the past for France. The surviving male Bonapartes are nobodies, while of the two women who kneel by her deathbed, Clotilda of Savoy, the martyr for Italy's unity, took little part in French politics, and Eugenie, the empress, the arbiter of fashion, withdrew from the world when her only son died in South Africa. Harsh and, probably deservedly, severe as the judgment of France is today on the second empress, it cannot be denied that it was a period of great activity in literature and art as well as of marked social brilliancy. To this the Princess Mathilde, through her person, almost a rival court to that of the empress, contributed greatly. A charming, intelligent woman, with decided artistic talents, she gathered about her painters and sculptors, poets and dramatists, politicians and diplomats. Her name could not be shut out; the Princess Mathilde's opinion dabbled in opposition to the government, but it was purely playing at politics after all, as has been the fashion of French women since there has been French history, chiefly intriguing for offices and seats in the academie.

M. Combes, the French prime minister, keeps on in his revolutionary course in the matter of the religious orders and the schools apparently without being in the least oppressed by the fear of the chambers; and these bodies, usually so jealous of their own privilege of initiative, reward the self-assertive ministerial leader by rolling up larger and larger majorities in his favor whenever he is driven by adverse criticism to ask a vote of confidence. When the liberal statesman as former Premier Waldeck-Rousseau attacked the venturesome M. Combes for his headlong policy in attempting to accomplish in one year a change in the relations of the state and church, toward the educational system, he was opposed by the fear of the chambers; and these bodies, usually so jealous of their own privilege of initiative, reward the self-assertive ministerial leader by rolling up larger and larger majorities in his favor whenever he is driven by adverse criticism to ask a vote of confidence.

The "villain" when they're out of sight He takes a kick out of the foot. Ten sticks, perhaps, or maybe more, And plants it 'neath the prison door, Exclaiming "I'll fulfill my vow, Curse him, he'll not escape me now! 'Tis just as well he's dang'd and gone, 'I'll blow him clear to kingdom come!" Then, with a few loud oaths and sneers, He lights the gas and blows the doors. Enter the heroine for you know something is a-coming in the spot. When she's not found upon the spot? Entering, she beholds the villain, And sees that he's got a right time to lose: She gathers up the deadly load, Throws it clear to kingdom come! And with the strength of twenty men He hauls it far down the aisle. Where an explosion will send forth a roar, Near where the villain stands, of course, He lights the gas and blows the doors. As luck will have it, breaking loose The door of the prison, he walks in. The hero then, without delay, Steps briskly forth and walks away, His fair presence by his side. He asks her if she'll be his bride. "Yes, darling, she replies, 'I'll walk with you, you'll give me the still." The orchestra begins to play, Sweet tremolos music just as they walk off the stage and close the door! "The curtain drops—the play is o'er."

MELODRAMA.

Li'lwaiken Sentinel. The curtain rises on a scene in which is shown a dark ravine. With a gasp we all start round, And wither'd leaves strew o'er the ground. The ground. The young man comes, a mountaineer, Young handsome, with no thought of fear. His only mode of doing ill, He thinks that he's a right man. (Which, in the mountain, is not thought. Emerging from behind a clump Of ferns, he perceives on a stump Enter the villain, with a sack Of hired rascals at his back, And, just as fiercely as he can He says: "Take him—there's your man!" They mix—it is a thrilling sight, And though "he's a right man" fight. The hero lands a few right swings And with an impact brings the villain crashing to the floor. He fights till he can fight no more, They look him in a mountain cave And then all makes their exit save The villain—when they're out of sight He takes a kick out of the foot. Ten sticks, perhaps, or maybe more, And plants it 'neath the prison door, Exclaiming "I'll fulfill my vow, Curse him, he'll not escape me now! 'Tis just as well he's dang'd and gone, 'I'll blow him clear to kingdom come!" Then, with a few loud oaths and sneers, He lights the gas and blows the doors. Enter the heroine for you know something is a-coming in the spot. When she's not found upon the spot? Entering, she beholds the villain, And sees that he's got a right time to lose: She gathers up the deadly load, Throws it clear to kingdom come! And with the strength of twenty men He hauls it far down the aisle. Where an explosion will send forth a roar, Near where the villain stands, of course, He lights the gas and blows the doors. As luck will have it, breaking loose The door of the prison, he walks in. The hero then, without delay, Steps briskly forth and walks away, His fair presence by his side. He asks her if she'll be his bride. "Yes, darling, she replies, 'I'll walk with you, you'll give me the still." The orchestra begins to play, Sweet tremolos music just as they walk off the stage and close the door! "The curtain drops—the play is o'er."

Trousers Sale! After Inventory Bargains. 200 pairs of Odd Suit Trousers, sizes from 36 to 42 waist, of different materials, values range from \$3.50 to \$7.50, your choice while they last. \$2.75. NO CLOTHING FITS LIKE OURS. Brown & King & Co. R. S. WILCOX, Mgr.