

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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QUESTION OF CONTRABAND.

A dispatch from Paris a few days ago stated that the question of what shall and shall not be considered contraband of war is likely to become ere long a serious one.

In a general way those articles that are contraband of war are very clearly defined and well understood. It appears that the supreme court of the United States has held that merchandise may be divided into three classes...

There has always been discussion, however, as regards the lines which divide these classes and the decisions of jurists have been as inconsistent as have the actions of nations themselves.

From all accounts this would be a good time for the aspiring cities of Corea to take a census. The irrepressible conflict in the city hall is shifting from paving specifications to fire engines and fire hose.

What is really needed now is some student who can take the dispatches from the Orient up to date and tell just how many battles have been fought and the loss to each party.

Some of the distinguished officers of the United States army are correct in their beliefs the enemy which captures, consignments of canned beef will have the worst of the engagement.

Russian commanders should be given a chart showing the location of the mines in the Russian harbors. From all accounts those mines are almost as deadly as the coal mines of Pennsylvania.

this increase \$21,000 is chargeable to increased construction expenses, \$5,000 to increased cost of fuel, \$3,000 to increase of teachers' salaries, \$1,000 to increase of janitors' salaries, \$2,500 to increased repair expenses, \$2,300 to increased stationery and supplies, \$12,500 to miscellaneous and \$7,000 for maps, globes and charts.

According to Secretary Burgess, the school board had \$96,158.58 of unpaid warrants on foot on February 1, 1904, and against this \$74,247.37 cash in the treasury, leaving a deficit on February 1 of \$21,911.21.

The Japanese might have known that there were no American naval officers in an active capacity on board the Japanese vessels at the bombardment of Port Arthur.

The Japanese now charge that the Russians fired the first shot of the war. Evidence concerning this question should be very carefully collected, as it will no doubt have a strong influence in determining the assessments of the costs during the peace negotiations.

It is not at all surprising to learn that sentiments of this kind exist in Mexico and it is possible that they are quite general among the people, but it is not easy to believe that they are entertained by so sagacious a statesman as President Diaz or any of the able men who are associated with him in the government.

The Mexican republic is doing well. Its people generally are fairly prosperous and it is making steady material progress. Its policy should be in the future as in the past to cultivate the most cordial relations with the United States.

Farming out the collection of taxes has been decreed unconstitutional by the Iowa supreme court in a test case from Hardin county for the payment to 15 per cent of the taxes collected and 15 per cent additional for attorneys' fees.

The heavy items among the incidentals are: Repairs and improvements, \$25,000; fuel, \$19,000; books, \$11,000; furniture and fixtures, \$11,000; and stationery and kindergarten supplies, \$11,000, and \$22,000 for miscellaneous supplies, whatever that may mean.

ported union is responsible for the action of its officers and another holds that it is not. Regardless of the position of people on the subject of organized labor all would like to know the law of the matter.

The first thing to be done to make Omaha beautiful is to make it appear beautiful at first sight. That will require the beautifying of the approaches by the removal of unsightly shacks and clay banks from the river front and along the railway tracks between the Union Pacific bridge and South Omaha.

If the school board should decide to accept the offer of \$14,000 for the Izard street school site, what would it do with the money? Would the proceeds be devoted to the payment of its floating debt or would it be absorbed by an expansion of fads and frills in the high school?

The official reports of what happens in a war are tame and uninteresting when compared with yellow journalism's reports of what did not happen.

That low grade education makes men forget to mail their wives' letters leaves a lot to be explained regarding men who don't know the difference between a Greek verb and a prehistoric turkey track.

Forward comes a doctor with the statement that appendicitis is contagious. While this jabs the old grape seed theory and also that holding fire flour culpable, it sustains the old theory that doctors know little of the anatomy beyond the expeditious way to amputate it.

There are signs of an attempt in certain quarters to entangle the United States in the far eastern imbroglio, and it seems that some credulous persons in Russia are inclined to take the success of such an attempt for granted.

Although possessing unusual advantages in the climate, soil, vegetation and distant horizon which conduce to the growth of native poetry, Nebraska has heretofore been rather neglectful of the muse.

One of the striking characteristics of the Nebraska poem is its realism, for it should be put down to the credit of the Nebraska poet that on those occasions when he consents to become a medium for the muse he knows he is painting nature as she is, and as he knows her he does her best.

This is all the more pleasing in view of the fact that when nature sets out to be noticed in Nebraska she seldom fails. For example, take the case of the poet who contributes a poem on the winter of 1904 to the Age-News.

But then you know it's this way: The cold has got to come; Better far to leave it now. That when the snows do bloom. We'll have a lovely spring. You can have my word for that; And the sun will shine in summer. Till you'll say it's far too hot.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Pneumonia bids fair to outclass the "white plague" in the mortality record of New York City. The former is steadily increasing while tuberculosis has decreased one-half.

Mayor McClellan's house has been put on the market. The "Society New York" tourists, who are now carried around the city in big vans, accompanied by a guide, who describes the various places of interest.

The Japanese now charge that the Russians fired the first shot of the war. Evidence concerning this question should be very carefully collected, as it will no doubt have a strong influence in determining the assessments of the costs during the peace negotiations.

Money lenders who have been exacting usurious interest loans advanced on salaries have been dealt a blow which may be more effectual than the attempts of the district attorney to drive them out of business in New York City.

An eminent New York lawyer dropped an inadvertent hint which throws a cutting light upon the committee's plan approved here. He said that immediately following the sudden death of a notable man as William C. Whitney there is a tremendous rush on the part of men with large estates to make their wills.

Humorous republicans of New York are taking to putting up a job on the gifted but inflammatory Bourke Cochran, who is going to take the seat in congress vacated by young Mr. McClellan.

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NOMINATING A SENATOR.

Kearney Hub: There is more than one way to look at the question of nominating a senator at the state convention. It may be a good thing, but there are a great many other things to be attended to this year.

Alliance Times: It's about time candidates for United States senator were getting busy. The state convention, which is expected to nominate a candidate, is only three months away, and the time is short for candidates to cover this big state.

Postmaster Roberts of Brooklyn has issued an edict against the practice of men in the service playing the races. He says he will not tolerate followers of the races among government employes under his supervision.

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PERSONAL NOTES.

Ida M. Tarbell is getting more and more epunky. She now challenges the national administration. Eergetic James Hearson, the noted soldier-mathematician, has just died at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The supreme court of Indiana has rendered a decision which enforces upon a son-in-law the duty of treating his mother-in-law with as much consideration as he would give to other human beings.

Senator Ankeny understands the Indian language perfectly and acted as interpreter the other day in Washington when a group of Yakima Indians were presented to the president at the White House.

A unique reunion of ex-secretaries of war was observed in a corner of the senate chamber in Washington one afternoon last week. Senator Alger, Senator Proctor and Senator Ellinger, among others, were in the middle of their talk when Secretary Taft, the huge Oshoan who now holds down the war secretary's chair, came in and joined the group.

Washington Post: "You have allowed yourself to be dashed by money." "That," said Senator Sorghum, "is untrue. In an attempt to make a name for myself I have invariably been coldly practical." -Washington Star.

Chicago Tribune: "I hand-painted stockings cost so much I should think the ladies would adopt the half-wool idea." "They don't come so high." -Houston Post.

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Advertisement for SHERMAN best coal mined in Wyoming, Nut, \$6.00—nothing like it for cooking. Lump, \$6.50—for heaters. Telephone 127 Victor White Coal Co. 1605 Farnam. The Owl Can See at Night. Can you see in a satisfactory manner by daylight, or artificial light? If not, be warned in time. Call on J. C. Hutson & Co., 213 So. 16th St. Their auto makes the eyes feel good.