

Omaha and Council Bluffs officials have "put up a corner" on catching law-breakers.

By the recent completion of the Dakota and Southern Railroad, Yankton and Sioux City are connected by rail.

The Beatrice Express, Fremont Tribune and Omaha Republican are jawing about the poor hotels in Fremont. Don't visit, gentlemen, where the accommodations are not congenial. We are sorry this fuss occurred.

The Supreme Court of our State, at its recent session decided that school lands become taxable as soon as sold. This settles a much debated question, and occupiers of such lands may now make up their minds to pay the taxes assessed against them.

The Boston Journal of Commerce is a new paper, its origin dating since the fire. It is a nine column sheet, devoted to the interest of commerce generally. It is taking a bold stand against the Railroads, and in this commends itself to the attention of the west, and deserves the patronage of a people victimized by railroad monopolies.

Will the Omaha Herald and other papers of the same kidney, which are enjoying such a feast over the developments that are being made by certain investigating committees, take a slice that it is the Republican party that is instituting these investigations and that its claims as a reform party, during the last campaign, were not merely idle talk.

The Republican party is a party of progress, enterprise and honor. We have always believed that it had the moral courage and the disposition to purify itself and the government to that corruption which has only been too apparent and open. The investigations which are now being instituted, and the vigor and zealously manifested in unearthing every speck of political or official corruption, demonstrates the Republican party to be the excelsior "Reform party."

We have received a pamphlet published by J. H. Nowtware, State Superintendent of Nominations, descriptive of the State of Nebraska. It is illustrated by a new and authentic map, and is accompanied by some statements in answer to the queries: Where is it? What is it? What is it to become? and when shall these things be? It is a faithful delineation of the soil, climate, resources, and development of our State. It is a horse, so to speak, from which the future growth and wealth of our young commonwealth may be predicted. Its wide circulation would not fail to increase materially the tide of immigration to our borders.

The defeat of Pomeroy in Kansas for the U. S. Senatorship was as disgraceful as it was complete. In joint session of the legislature a Senator arose and produced a roll of bills to the amount of \$7,000, which had been paid him by Pomeroy's own hand for his influence in securing his election. This denouement created a thrilling sensation, and in the ballot which followed not one vote was cast for Senator Pomeroy. The successful candidate, Col. John J. Ingalls, is said to be a man of unimpeachable reputation. With the divulgence which are being made by the Caldwell investigation, by which that Senator is shown to have purchased his election, Kansas politics must be at a pretty low ebb.

Dr. E. L. Gandy, of Humboldt, Nebraska, has again come to grief. While under arrest last summer and pending his trial for falsifying personation of the U. S. Marshal, whereby he obtained \$400 from an unsophisticated victim, he attempted to spirit away a witness, for which he was fined \$1000 and costs and imprisoned for three months. He served out his imprisonment, but did not pay his fine. An execution was lately issued to collect the fine and costs amounting to \$1500, and a levy made upon the land, stock and goods of Dr. Gandy in Humboldt. Under the plea that the property belonged to Mrs. Gandy, and not being able to brook the "law's delay," the gallant Doctor procured the services of a constable, and the twin retook it from the custody of the law. For this little diversion they have both been invited to rise and explain before Commissioner Peabody, at Omaha.

From the meshes of the Credit Mobilier transactions the Omaha Herald discovers a "triumphant vindication" for James Brooks. Now it is a notorious fact that Brooks has been entangled more than any of the other gentlemen who have been connected with it, and with his indirection the whole transaction will be reduced to a notorious public scandal. Seriously considered we do not believe that the investigation proves more than that some of our representatives in Congress invested in Credit Mobilier stock with perfectly righteous intent, and drew out of their bargains when they discovered that they might be buying into future trouble. No one has been bribed. No one of them has been asked for favorable legislation, nor rendered any. What favorable legislation the Union Pacific Railroad has had, accused and unaccused Congressmen have participated in alike. The essential ingredient to eliminate any of these gentlemen, the intent is utterly wanting. Of course the scheme as now understood looks extremely questionable, but none of them seem to have been acquainted with its true nature at the time they were invited into it. We need no more positive proof than has been developed before we can charge our respected representatives with corruption.

THE RAILROAD QUESTION.

Congress has recognized the necessity of commercial legislation and has directed its attention toward effecting a reform in the matter of "Rail Road Rule." The constitution of the United States has reserved to Congress the right to control commerce between the States. A common protection against local and conflicting laws is thus provided, and it is being discovered that a more effective control can be thus secured over those great corporations that carry on the Inter-State trade.

Railroad corporations are showing an increased disregard for the rights of the people. They act in defiance of the local laws of those States through whose limits their roads happen to pass. They seem to have leagued together in a despotism against the people. Self aggrandizement at the expense of an impoverished and outraged public, is the attitude maintained by all five bushels of grain are consumed in transporting one to the sea-board, through the extortions of railroad monopolies, and we have some faint idea of the servitude the great mass of our people are suffering at the hands of railroad kings.

We are glad to see congress alive upon this subject. Four bills have been introduced in the House, and the Senate has appointed a special committee to investigate the matter. The people should be alive to the importance of this movement, and by every possible means impress their Senators and Representatives with the importance of remedying specifically, the ills which they have so long and patiently borne.

ANSWER TO BREEZY.

Thinking that it would probably interest many of your readers to possess a statement of how the Board of Equalization performed their labors, I will endeavor to explain it in as brief a manner as possible so as to be understood. The alphabetical list of each precinct Assessor shows, when made in conformity to law, the numbers and values of property required to be listed, and, of course, the footings give the amount in the precinct and their total value. Now, to illustrate, the average value of horses, etc., in each precinct, as returned by the Assessors, being ascertained, the Board find that in Brownville precinct horses average, say, \$65.00; in Nemaha City precinct, \$50.00; in Peru precinct, \$35.00, etc., and thus it is ascertained that the average for the entire county on horses, as returned by the Assessors, is \$42.50. The Board now proceed to order such a per cent added or deducted from each precinct so as to make it conform to this general average. Thus, if ten per cent is added to A and B's precinct, A's \$20.00 horse would be valued at \$22.00, while B's one hundred dollar horse would be valued at \$110.00.

The Board were of opinion that gross errors had been made in the returns under the item of "capital employed in merchandise," and were widely confirmed in this opinion by evidence presented to them, among which was the fact that many merchants misconstrued the law and claimed the privilege of deducting their indebtedness from their "merchandise" as well as from their "monies and credits." Having ascertained these facts the Board ordered the Assessors to re-assess, (under special instructions issued to them,) all such persons as in their judgment had probably failed to make correct returns. Under this re-assessment some merchants made corrections, while others positively refused to make any alterations, and claimed that their version of the law was correct, or at least ought to be. The report was made after the corrections.

"Breezy" says "Land in Benton precinct was ordered to be raised 30 per cent, and in Bedford 33 per cent." We will suppose that it is correct. Upon examining the returns of the precinct assessors the Board found that the land in some precincts had been valued much above any previous valuation, and evidently too high, while other precincts were put down at very low figures. These values the Board deemed it their duty to equalize, and as the Board of Equalization has no power to change the total of the assessment they raise some precincts and reduce others, as seems best in their judgment, to do justice to all. Of course, if the value was reduced in all the precincts which had been assessed high by the assessors and no corresponding increase made on other precincts, the total of the assessment would be changed. The Board saw fit to secure the advice of those who are generally conceded to be best informed and most interested in the value of real estate, and the changes made were entirely satisfactory to those present and conversant with the action taken in the premises.

The law allowing exemption for the planting of fruit and forest trees permits the amount exempted to be taken from "the amount of taxable property," and it is purely accidental whether it is taken from the realty or personal property. A vast amount of dissatisfaction must necessarily arise from the irregular manner in which the law, as it now stands, is carried into effect, as it is totally impossible for any Board of Equalization to do justice to all as returns are now made. While on the subject of taxation permit me to say to those who have purchased school lands of the State, and have refused to pay taxes thereon under the impression that such lands were not subject to taxation until the title was entirely vested in the purchaser and final payment made thereon, that the Supreme Court, recently in session at Lincoln, has decided that school lands when sold by the State are liable for taxes from the time the sale is made, the same as other property."

H. O. MINNER, Com.

Senator Tipton has our thanks for public documents.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

LINCOLN, Jan. 29th, '92.

STATE FORTNIGHT.

A bill is now pending in the Senate for "An Act to define the duties of State Forester and to repeal all tree exemption laws."

Reliable data show that existing tree exemption laws cost the State, last year, over two hundred thousand dollars. The cost to Nemaha county alone, as we set forth some time since, was fourteen thousand five hundred dollars. The bill under consideration repeals all the exemption laws now in existence, and provides that the State Forester shall collect and distribute seeds, trees and cuttings to counties and individuals free of cost, that he shall, by experiment, ascertain the best varieties of trees adapted to various localities and sold in the State; that he shall collect all information in relation to tree planting, and by the aid of circulars, lectures, &c., promulgate such information to the people; that all Agricultural Societies, State or local, shall pay out annually, as premiums for tree planting, ten per cent of all the monies they receive from the public treasuries. They State Board of Agriculture is made a State Forest Board, and the three principal officers of County Agricultural Societies constitute a County Board, and where there are no county organizations the County Commissioners constitute the Board. In counties where there are no County Agricultural Societies the County Commissioners are to attend the valuations Knight's assistant upon the wind mill. Poor Knight, we pity thee!

Gov. Furnas, having visited the school and made himself thoroughly acquainted with its condition, wants and prospects, called attention to it in his inaugural and recommended liberal aid to it.

Senator Shook like-wise has taken very great pains to inform himself regarding its needs, and with a quiet, intelligent, persistent zeal, worthy of the great cause, has devoted himself to its interests, and nobly has been rewarded by receiving the unanimous vote of the Senate for his bill appropriating \$16,000 for the school.

This is a special appropriation designed for the following purposes:

- 1. To meet a deficiency arising from non-payment of the half mill tax for erecting the new building. We can not complete the building without this.
2. To put in heating apparatus. The building must be heated.
3. To furnish it with seats and other absolutely necessary appliances.
4. To give us the beginning of a library, and an apparatus for illustrating science.
5. To remodel the old building so that it can be converted into a boarding hall—a home—for young lady pupils.

\$16,000, compared with the sums given the University for similar purposes, is very small and is not as large a sum as the Normal should have, but has been put at that figure in view of the hard times. The bill has yet to pass the House, but after the careful scrutiny and the unanimous approval of the Senate, there can be no doubt of its passage. Representatives Wheeler and Blodgett are both in earnest, hearty, and sympathetic with it. Judge Wheeler visited the school and has in other ways carefully informed himself, and gives the measure his support from a deep conviction of its justice. I have yet to hear of a single Representative, from any part of the State, opposed to or lacking sympathy with the school. The Legislature is composed not of schemers, but of men fresh from the people, thoroughly imbued with popular ideas, and they realize that nothing so touches every popular interest, and so deeply involves the general welfare as the cause of univ. real education.

The Normal School is the people's school, is a department of the great common system which has been called, happily, "the people's college," and all, every man and especially every child, in the State is personally interested in its success. The school is endowed with land which, with proper care and patience, will one day yield a handsome income. But it is not all available now and hence the school is obliged to ask for temporary aid. It is now in the full tide of prosperity, is growing in reputation, popularity and in influence, it is crowded with students, and proper effort will easily double the number; the schools of the State are rapidly increasing in number and grade, and are demanding a greater number of well trained teachers.

Other States are watching with interest the success of this enterprise, and will hail with joy, wise action on the part of the Legislature in making provision for its wants.

Liberal provision for a school so important, so far reaching in its influence, would be the wisest economy.

T. J. M.

Peru, February 1, 1892.

Dr. J. B. Pinney.

This gentleman well known to most of our readers in this and Richardson county, is delivering lectures throughout the eastern States in behalf of schools in Africa. The New York Observer, in speaking of Mr. Pinney, says: "SCHOOLS IN AFRICA.—Rev. J. B. Pinney, LL. D., formerly governor of Liberia, whose lectures on Africa delivered the present winter in several of our cities have been heard with deep interest, is making an effort in behalf of the New York Colonization Society, to secure funds for the establishment of schools in the Liberian settlements. The matter has been brought before many of our churches, which have responded with great liberality."

The Daily Miners' Journal, of Pottsville, Penn., says: "LECTURE TO-NIGHT.—We can promise a great treat to those who are invited to attend the lecture of the Methodist minister, Dr. J. B. Pinney, at the Methodist Church to-night. The following are the names of the parties, and their names of sentence: H. W. Shoop, two years and six months; J. W. Marshall, two years and one month. Omaha Republican.

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