

The Omaha Bee.

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OMAHA PUBLISHING CO., Prop'rs E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PENNSYLVANIA is knocking down the official pessimism and Don Cameron holds the pole.

A WAGON bridge over the Missouri at Omaha is bound come and cannot be delayed much longer.

EVERY lover of law and order in Omaha is emphatic in declaring that the low dives of this city must be closed.

BOSTON has increased her city debt one million during the past year, under what Bostonians consider a very economical administration.

A LITTLE snow fall now and then is relished by the best of men, but it is terribly aggravating to the livermen that have invested in fancy sleighs.

A DISGUSTED contemporary regrets that Master Shepton's prophecy did not come true, "as its fulfillment would have shut Guitau's mouth."

THE Springfield Republican asks what our great capitalists are doing. Their principal occupation just at present is watering stock and clipping off coupons.

COMMISSIONER RAUM recommends the abolition of the fee system in the United States marshal's office and the substitution of salaries commensurate with the responsibility of the position.

DR. MILLER writes from New York that he is becoming converted to granite block paving. THE BEE has maintained from the outset that no other material will meet the requirements of our city.

EVERY railroad in Nebraska reports increased earnings during the past year. That dreadful Doane law which was to cripple capital and destroy industry and trade does not seem to have got in its work.

ONE hundred thousand people witnessed the Atlanta cotton exhibition just closed. The management expected to more than clear all expenses, and perhaps to realize a handsome little dividend on their stock.

SENATOR VAN WYCK is receiving the commendations of the state press for his manly battle in favor of the St. Joe land grant settlers. No greater inquiry has ever been perpetrated by the corporations, assisted by the national land office.

RUSSIA is thirteen days behind of the rest of the world. Her Christmas occurs to-morrow and her New Years does not take place until the 13th inst. This is due to her adherence of the old style of reckoning, which was abandoned by England in 1752. This change in the calendar was ordered by Pope Gregory in 1582.

At the end of the next fiscal year, after paying \$100,000,000 for pensions, there still remains a surplus of over \$60,000,000 in the national treasury. The Philadelphia Press asks what can be done with such an enormous amount of surplus revenue? Let the government invest the surplus in improving the great western waterways.

COMMENTING on the proposed retirement of the silver certificates the St. Louis Republican expresses gratification that the intelligent financiers of the country who are not tainted with the single gold standard mania are unanimous in opposing any movement that contemplates the withdrawal of the silver certificates. We have no other paper money in this country so entirely in accord with the principles of a sound financial system, and it would be a very grave error to make a hasty step towards the policy of irredeemable fiat money by withdrawing the silver certificates. The silver certificate is the very perfection of paper currency, in the fact that it is represented dollar for dollar by the actual coin, while neither national bank notes nor greenbacks have such backing. They are in volume greatly in excess of the actual coin which is available for their redemption, while the ideal paper currency should be represented dollar for dollar by coin. With that sort of backing inflation is impossible, and without it inflation is inevitable and only a matter of degree.

BLAINE AND THE PRESIDENCY

Mr. Blaine has for the present retired entirely from public life, and proposes to devote himself to the development of his private interests. No one, however, imagines for a moment that the ex-secretary has cast away all political ambition, or intends to permit himself to be permanently shelved in the obscurity of commercial pursuits. On the other hand, it seems equally certain that Mr. Blaine has not, as some of the journals have stated, already begun an active canvass for the republican nomination in 1884. A prominent Cleveland gentleman is responsible for the statement that Mr. Blaine has clearly defined his position on the question within the last two months. He is reported to have stated to Governor Foster that he had no idea of making any canvass for the office and would make no effort in the usually accepted meaning of the word as applied to politics. If, however, the convention should come to the conclusion that his name would best fill all the requirements of the situation he should not object, but would accept, and so far as lay in his power, justify the confidence that the party had placed in him. He added that he had no intention of going into any such fight as he had made in 1880 and 1876, and if the honor ever came to him, it must come because the republican party would have it so.

All this amounts to an admission that Mr. Blaine will again be a candidate for the presidency if the way seems at all clear for a successful canvass. Those statesmen who are already making preparations in advance to erect their lightning rods will do well not to ignore the electric attraction of the late secretary of state. It has given the nomination a very close call twice before and may do better since its owner has three years of license in which to study the coming political thunder clouds. Under any circumstances "politics are mighty unartin," and Mr. Blaine with the added honors of an excellent service as secretary of state, is likely to prove a very dangerous competitor in the presidential race if he feels so inclined, interviews and statements to the contrary notwithstanding.

THE OMAHA BEE cites the Daniel case at New Helena, and the Olive tragedy as evidence of a lawless spirit which it assumes exists in Custer county, but which never existed except in the fertile imagination of the news editor of that sheet. Custer county without a district court is as free from crime as county in the state, and such things come with bad grace from a paper published where the foul murder of Watson B. Smith goes unavenged; where a class of citizens are banded together to resist state laws; where the last term of court showed up two murders cases, two arson cases and numerous other crimes of less degree, and where burglaries are of a nightly occurrence. It is all very well to point to isolated cases here and there in this county as evidence of lawlessness. But it does not follow that because we have no courts we are worse than our neighbors. Let THE BEE see to it that a little more justice is administered at home before it attempts to bismark the fair fame of the citizens of Custer.—Custer Leader.

THE BEE has not assumed that a lawless spirit exists in Custer county, and it is willing to admit that any comparisons between the obedience paid to the laws by our frontier neighbors, and the respect manifested for their enforcement in Omaha would be decidedly to the disadvantage of this city as at present governed. It is one of the worst results of the prevailing condition of affairs in Omaha, where the entire city government seems banded together to nullify the laws, that such criticism as the above cannot be answered by a denial or turned aside by apology.

It is virtually settled that we shall have an extra session of the legislature this winter. This opportunity to secure legislation that will enable Omaha to raise the necessary paving bonds should not be neglected. Governor Nance, we understand from reliable authority, has expressed his willingness to include the proposed amendment to our charter in his call provided he has assurance that the Douglas delegation in the legislature are agreed upon the amendments that are required. It is all important, therefore, that the delegation from this county shall meet to deliberate and if possible agree upon the vital points that are to be inserted in the amended charter. A preliminary meeting of taxpayers to discuss the proposed amendments in their various bearings, should be held at an early day, in order that the members from Douglas county shall clearly understand what their constituents desire them to do. Such a meeting could be called by the president of the board of trade, to which the Douglas delegation should be invited. In our opinion the time for deciding upon the material with which to pave our street has not yet arrived. The main question and the only problem now to be solved is the raising of the means necessary for paving the principal streets of Omaha next spring without crippling or bankrupting the owners of lots abutting on the paved thoroughfares.

THE FAILURES OF 1881.

A comparative estimate of the failures of the last year, with those of the year preceding, shows a marked increase. Through the courtesy of Mr. D. H. Goodrich the Omaha manager of Messrs. R. G. Dun & Co., THE BEE is furnished with the following interesting commercial statistics: The business failures throughout the United States for the entire year are reported at 5,582 in number, with liabilities amounting to \$81,155,932. This indicates an increase of 847 in number, and increased lock-up by bad debts amounting to fifteen and a half millions.

In order to show the comparative figures for a series of years the following table is inserted:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Failures, Amt. Liabilities, and another unlabeled column. Rows include years 1872 through 1881.

In remarking on the above figures, the Mercantile Agency in its annual circular says: "The above figures indicate a material increase in the number of failures for the year 1881, and a growth in the loss by bad debts considerably over last year. An indication of this sort can hardly be interpreted to be a favorable sign as to the condition of the country, yet, when a comparison is instituted between the failure figures of last year and those of previous years, for instance, 1878, it will be seen that in the proportion they bear to the casualties of that and previous years, both as to the number of failures and the amount of liabilities, the result is not unfavorable. It should also be recollected, that while the failures and liabilities of 1881 are only slightly more than one-half those of 1878, the volume of trade is probably now four or five times as great as it was then, while the number of persons engaged in business is certainly eighteen to twenty-five per cent greater. As to the proportion of failures to those engaged in business, our statistics show that in 1876 the failures were 1 in every 63 persons; in 1877, 1 in 73; in 1878, 1 in 64; in 1879, 1 in 105; in 1880, 1 in 158, while in 1881 the proportion was 1 in 140. The advantage in favor of the year just closed over the average of years is therefore very marked."

Attention is also called to the fact that there is a vague sense of uncertainty regarding the future, grounded upon the experiences of 1872-1873. The conditions which preceded the last crisis, it is claimed, resemble those which now prevail, viz.: enormous extension of trade, great expenditures on railways and public works; increased growth and ease of credit, as illustrated by the large loans to the banks; and a general disposition to look up quick capital in assets of an unrealized character. This feeling of apprehension finds some support in the partial failure of the grain crops in the west; in the decrease of exports; the increase in imports; the large reduction in the earnings of leading railroads, involving a lessened income to the investors in this class of property, and the great decline in the realizable prices of securities represented on the stock exchange, as compared with six months ago. While it is true that all these elements are suggestive of a changing condition of things, it is doubtful if they can be interpreted adversely to the general prosperity of the trade of the country. The extension of business seems, on every hand, to be of a most healthy character. There is little or no accumulation of stocks of manufactures in any locality, while in numerous departments of activity orders are far ahead of the greatly increased productive power. Though it is true that the grain crop has not been up to its usual average, it should be borne in mind that for several years very ample rewards have been realized by the agricultural community; while in nearly all products, except grain, the yields of previous years have been maintained. Prices, too, continue so high that the result to the agricultural producer is not far short of the average of late years.

The circular, which is very full and complete in its statistical details, concludes as follows: "The political and financial outlook seems equally without a disturbing element. With some additional legislation by which the laws relating to bankruptcy can be regulated and made uniform, and with favorable conditions as to weather, crops and trade generally, the opposite of which there is no reason to anticipate, the prospect for the future seems certainly most promising. It is true that failures may increase and individuals suffer the penalties of a departure from legitimate business principles, from undue competition or unwise expansion. Some will by failure seek to increase their store, and still more may be the victims of loss of confidence, the result of the absence of a protective law. But that these casualties will be large in proportion to the number of people engaged in business, or to the magnitude of the transaction, seems as unlikely now as at any time in the last four years. The prospect is that, as compared with any country in the world, failures will continue not only to be less numerous in proportion to the number engaged in trade, but far less in amount of average liabilities, and in a far smaller ratio to the extent of business transacted, so that the

safety of the mercantile, manufacturing and banking communities may be set down as better assured than that of the same classes in any other country."

According to a table just published by the department of agriculture the United States has one-fourth the horses, one-fifth the cattle, one-ninth the sheep and almost one-half the swine in the civilized world. Russia has more horses, and that country and the Argentine Republic more sheep than the United States; but these are the only countries whose number of live stock is larger in any particular.

SMALL-POX caused 450 deaths in New York City in 1881 against thirty-one in 1880. The same story comes from all parts of the country, through which it has been spread by the free intercourse enjoyed everywhere. Nothing but compulsory vaccination can stop the spread of the scourge all over the continent. Omaha should not lay behind other western cities in precautionary measures.

NEBRASKA roadmasters propose to give this state a new deal all around during the coming campaign.

RAILROAD NOTES.

Five corporations now control the twelve lines centering at Indianapolis.

The Northern Pacific is staking a branch line from Grand Forks, Dak., to the British line.

Tracklaying commenced on the Leavenworth, Topeka & Southern at the first named city, Dec. 31.

There are sixteen gangs of graders now at work on the Missouri Pacific extension in Atchison county, Kansas.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers had 1,500 members during 1881, and instituted fifteen new lodges.

Three hundred feet of the Omaha & St. Paul ice bridge over the Missouri at Sioux City, have been swept away by the going of floating ice. It will take a week to repair damage.

The Topeka & Western has been incorporated in Kansas, to construct a road westward 250 miles. The Union Pacific management is represented in the directory by Sidney Dillon.

The Hannibal & St. Joe railroad company has served notice on the governor of Missouri that its attorneys will ask for an injunction against the proposed sale of the road, for interest due on \$5,000,000.

There are 3,000 men now working on the Northern Pacific extension between Miles City and Custer, 175 miles west of Miles City. The engineers expect to complete the road to that point by June 15 next, and to Boxman by December 1, 1882.

A charter has been taken out for a new narrow gauge railroad, of which M. P. Bush, Buffalo, N. Y., is president. The road will run from Buffalo, N. Y., to New York & Philadelphia road at Aspers, southeast to Williamsport, Pa. Work will be commenced as soon as possible.

Beginning on Monday next the trains of the New York, Pennsylvania & Ohio railroad, which have heretofore run on the track of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad will enter Cincinnati at the new depot of the latter road, at Pittsburg, Ohio.

The Danville, Olney & Ohio River railroad has secured connection with the Chicago & Eastern Illinois, thus obtaining entrance for the former road into Chicago. The line will be extended this winter to New Albany, New Albany & St. Louis railroad and to the Ohio river. This will ultimately give the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad direct connection with Chicago.

The New York, Lake Erie & Western railroad company announces that from January 1 it changes its through freight and passenger lines from the western connections heretofore used to the Grand Trunk railroad on the north, connecting therewith at Buffalo, and to the Pennsylvania western system on the south, connecting therewith at Mansfield, Utica and Springfield, Ohio.

The B. & M. company have incorporated into their time table an order that "coupling cars by hand is strictly prohibited in all cases where a stick can be used to couple the links. Spikes will be provided at the train headquarters. 'Spikes' were the boys' favorite last season, but since the enforcement of the St. Louis law the demand for 'sticks' has increased.

Texas leads the country in respect to railway building, having added last year 1,411 miles, which final returns will probably increase to 1,500 or more. Colorado appears to come next, with about 500 miles, Iowa comes next with nearly 500 miles, and Dakota and Ohio also show, thus far, between 400 and 500 miles. Indiana, Illinois, New Mexico and New Jersey have added to their respective totals 400 miles. Nebraska added 250 miles.

Another new road has been projected in Texas. It will run from New Orleans to the Sabine river via Opelousas, a distance of 220 miles, thence over to Dallas, then via Fort Sumner to Leta, in the valley of the Rio Grande, where a junction with the A. & P. is made. The entire distance of the route is 137 miles.

Papers have been laid before congress by the president showing that the right of way across the lands of the Choctaw nation in the Indian Territory was not obtained by the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad company without formidable opposition. The right of way granted is 200 feet wide, and an additional 20 feet at stations for a distance of 400 feet in length. The company will pay the Indian \$50 each quarter, perpetually, and the money is to be used for schools. The line will extend 125 miles in the Indian country.

STATE JOINTINGS.

Sidney has the telephone fever. Work has commenced on Dorsey's new block in Tremont.

A wolf hunter of Hickman broke his shoulder blade in the chase.

The new hotel at Wyomere, nearly completed, contains forty-nine rooms.

The Lincoln Land company have decided to build a flouring mill at Wyomere.

Sidney mourns the abrupt departure of Paul & Henry, combination of beats. Total deficit, \$51.50.

The total capital invested in business and business buildings in Crete amounts to over \$600,000.—Union.

The board of county commissioners of stage county have rescinded the action incorporated the village of Wyomere.

The Alliance of Furnas county will meet at Beaver City on the 14th to organize a county alliance and extend the organization to every precinct.

The Missouri closed at Nebraska City, December 31, 1881, and passengers crossed on the ice January 1, 1882.—News.

We are open for connection here.

Three "smart Alecks" of North Platte

collected \$3.00 for an imaginary "widow who needed a night's lodging," and were fined \$5 and costs for obtaining on false pretenses.

The improvement statistic of Furnas county show 14,375 acres out of a total of 99,229 under cultivation. In the way of stock, there are 2,753 horses, 6,022 cattle, 231 mules, 5,772 sheep and 1,611 hogs.

Leon Sturdevant, a Fairmont youth of 16, is the latest victim of the treacherous shotgun. He went out gunning and returned with his cheek terribly mangled. The prospects of his recovery are favorable.

Seventy-five Wyoming men, "armed to the teeth," started on on the 28th to exterminate the wolf in that vicinity, and returned in the evening, battle-weary and weary, with the carcasses of three jack-rabbits.

Collinsville, the new station on the R. & M. near the state line, is enjoying over the prospects of being the division headquarters. The company has built at that point ten switches, all of which have the appearance of being permanent.

During the years immediately succeeding the organization of Phelps county, in 1874, fraudulent warrants to the amount of \$20,000 were issued. In 1879 the county treasurer was enjoined from paying any of these warrants, and now the board of commissioners have effected a settlement with the holders at 50 cents on the dollar, issuing funding bonds in the sum of \$10,500 to pay the indebtedness. The original warrants were to pay for wool at \$35 a cord, etc.

ALONG THE "Q."

Taking in the Town of Prescott by Moonlight.

PRESCOTT, ADAMS COUNTY, IOWA, December 29, 1881.—The people along the eastern division of this railroad quite frequently speak of it as the "Burlington road," while in western Iowa "The Q," means the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. Seven miles east of Corning on the "Q," and ninety miles from Omaha, we find the little hillside village of Prescott, with half a dozen stores of general merchandise and groceries, two or three hardware stores, drug store, harness shop, shoe store, jewelry store, furniture store, wagon shop, several blacksmith shops, two lumber yards, several meat markets, a lawyer, four physicians, two hotels, a fine two story school house and two churches, and a population of about three hundred.

Like many of its pretentious neighbors, this settlement has sprung up since the railroad needed a station here. There is no newspaper in the town, but a hard working tradesman furnishes one or two neighboring editors with weekly reviews of the political and financial situations in the nation, and is respected by his neighbors as an exponent of what is quite often to them an unknown quantity.

It was long after dark when we left the train, and with gripsack in hand, found the Polson house, and inquired why the bell was calling to the high school building, and found mine host, with lantern in hand, ready to start in answer to that bell call, to hear an address by one of the citizens of the burg, on the tariff question, and we accepted an invitation to go, as "every body" was to go.

The oppressions of monopoly and the slavery of political intrigues were briefly and quite pleasantly presented, while THE OMAHA BEE was mentioned as "the only great paper of the west that had dared to face the tide and speak the honest convictions of the people on many of these great issues," all of which were introductory to the subject of moderate tariff, or "tariff for revenue only," and anti-monopoly.

We saw at once that THE BEE was read here, and the people in every village and hamlet are looking to it as the herald of truth, an expounder of the great questions before the people, and a trusted and fearless advocate of justice. This town is a good local market for grain and hogs, and is agitating the butter and cheese question.

Mr. I. Polson and his wife, feeling that they had long since seen their strongest days on a farm, have opened a hotel here that is a new thing. The house is a home for the farmer when he comes to town with his produce, and the commercial man finds as good a bed as he can find in the state, while the table is a farmer's table, as it has so often been seen on the old New England Thanksgiving day, and the happy traveler will find a variety and abundance, while my lord and lady, in person, stand by and encourage him to eat, and then only charge a dollar a day. It is needless to add that they must soon enlarge the house. This is a trading center for a large section of country, whose people are intelligent, industrious and prosperous.

BUCKEYE.

Kidney Complaint Cured.

B. Turner, Rochester, N. Y., writes: "I have been for over a year subject to serious disorder of the kidneys, and often unable to attend to business; I procured your BLOOD PURIFIER and was relieved before a half a bottle was used. I intend to continue, as I feel confident that they will entirely cure me." Price \$1, trial size 10 cents.

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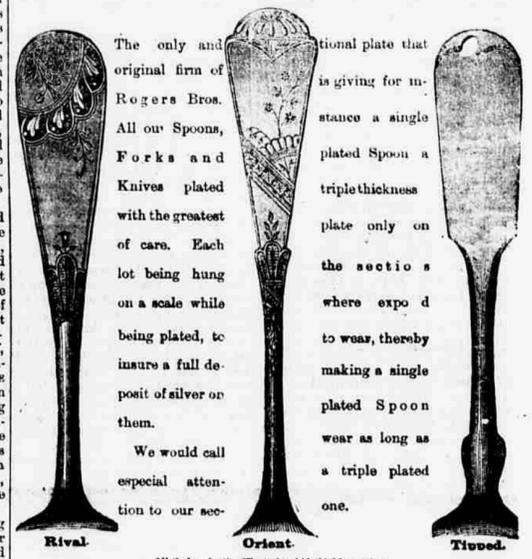
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