The Omaha Bee

Published every morning, except Sunday The only Monday morning daily.

TERMS BY MAIL—

One Year.....$10.00 | Three Months.$3.00
Six Months.....5.00 | One " .. 1.00

THE WEEKLY BEE, published every Wednesday.

TERMS POST PAID:—

One Year.....$2.00 | Three Months.. 50
Six Months.... 1.00 | One " " .. 20

AMERICAN NEWS COMPANY, Sole Agents for Newsdealers in the United States.

CORRESPONDENCE—All Communications relating to News and Editorial matters should be addressed to the EDITOR OF THE BEE.

BUSINESS LETTERS—All Business Letters and Remittances should be addressed to THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, OMAHA. Drafts, Checks and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the order of the Company.

The BEE PUBLISHING CO., Props
E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

THE ANTI-MONOPOLY LEAGUE.

CENTRAL CITY, August 14.

The State Anti-Monopoly league will meet at Hastings, September 27, 1882, in connection with the State Farmers' alliance, for the purpose of putting before the voters of the state of Nebraska an independent state anti-monopoly ticket. All anti-monopoly leagues are requested to call special meetings to elect delegates to attend the convention.

By order of the executive committee. H. C. OSTERHOUT,
Pes. State Anti-Monopoly League.

THE U. P. brigade is being drilled for action under Arabi Pashaw Kimball.

POLITICS rule the roost in Nebraska just at present. Even corn takes a back seat.

THERE isn't any use of estimating the crop of candidates until the harvest time of the conventions.

THE sneers of the Union Pacific organ at the Farmers' Alliance may come home to roost when the "granger votes" are counted.

OUR national debt was reduced $16,000,000 in August. And still the receipts in the treasury department are reported on the increase.

CHURCH HOWE continues to splice his pole with money and railroad influence, but it remains to be seen whether it will prove long enough to reach that congressional persimmon.

KANSAS is doing excellent work in tree planting, no less than 93,000 acres of trees having been set out in that state during the past three years. Arbor Day has given a strong impetus to this important work of creating forests in Nebraska.

RELIABLE estimates give Nebraska a corn crop varying from fifty to fifty-five bushels to the acre, while the wheat harvest is panning out an average of twenty-two bushels throughout the state. The remark that this is the farmer's year is again in order.

WASHINGTON business men are complaining bitterly of the effects of Hubbell's assessment circular upon trade in the city. It is estimated that over half a million dollars have been gathered from the fifteen thousand clerks in the various departments, a sum which would otherwise have gone to Washington retailers either to pay old debts or for new supplies.

REPORTS of the prevalence of Asiatic cholera at Yokohama and Manilla, with isolated cases in Europe direct attention to the fact that the coming year will complete the term of seventeen years since the last cholera epidemic of 1866. Just seventeen years previous, in 1849, occurred a great epidemic of the disease, and this in turn was preceded by the visitation of 1832. Whether cholera is likely to strike this country next year or not cannot be predicted, but it is certain that the surest preventives of the disease are cleanly cities and attention to the most simple and essential sanitary rules.

NEW YORK, with an assessed real estate valuation of over one billion dollars has a tax rate of $2.25 per hundred dollars. The local press in commenting upon this fact notes that for the first time in thirteen years the city has been honestly assessed and points to the gross frauds in assessment which were perpetrated under the ring regime. It was one of the methods of the Tweed government to systematically undervalue the real property and by this means to maintain a high rate of interest on the bonds issued by the city Unfair assessments of property are responsible for the high tax rates existing in a number of our cities. It is a favorite delusion that low assessments and high tax levies are more profitable to municipalities than a fair valuation and a correspondingly low tax rate. The reverse is the case. It is a fact that in cases where assessors fail to perform their duty and make a lower rating than the law requires, the poor suffer heavily in comparison with men of wealth. Cottages are invariably assessed higher proportionally than the residences of the rich, and the men of means are in this way enabled to shirk their share of the burdens of taxation. In addition, a high tax rate which it fails to deceive citizens as to the actual pecuniary condition and responsibility of the city very often acts to the detriment of the city in frightening away foreign investors who know nothing of the low basis of valuation upon which the levy is made. If the large amount of corporation property in its city were assessed at one-third of this real value Omaha's tax rate would experience a drop which would be a genuine surprise to the oldest resident.

GENERAL interest will be excited this month by the international contests in which the United States will be represented. There is the great rifle match on September 14th and 15th, between a team of twelve, representing the British volunteers and a like team from the national guardsmen of the United States. The match will take place at Creedmoor, where the American team are hard at work rolling up surprising scores. The other contest referred to is the four-oared race between the Hillsdale crew and the Thames crew of London, representing the amateur oarsmen of England, which is also looked for the 14th and 15th of September. The shabby manner in which the Hillsdales have been treated across the water has won them universal sympathy and support, and there will be a very lively sense of satisfaction experienced if they succeed in beating the aristocratic snobs who declined to row with them because they were not "gentlemen" in the English sense of the word. In both of the matches the English representatives are skillful and plucky. It will take hard work to defeat them, but hard work has defeated English marksmen and oarsmen before, and there is good reason to believe it will do so in the present instances.

IT is a favorite boast of the railroad strikers that a republican nomination will be equivalent to an election in any of the three congressional districts. This remains to be seen. Republican voters in Nebraska are not such slaves to party machinery that they will endorse the nominations of notoriously corrupt politicians, simply because party bosses command them to do so. There are thousands of honest men who care more for the welfare of the state and the cause of good government than they do for the personal aggrandizement of disreputable local party leaders. Other things being equal, every Nebraska republican will prefer to support the nominee of his party. but party lines will set very lightly over the backs of the voters in the present campaign, and will be cast aside by thousands the moment they are convinced that the party name is used only as a mask behind which the monopolies expects to foist their tools into offices of profit and trust.

THE advance in Egypt promised in Saturday's dispatches was not made, and instead of further general engagements we now hear rumors of more reconnoissances in force against Arabi's forces. Side by side with these evidences that the Egyptian army is stronger than General Wolseley, as first imagined comes news that additional troops and guns are at once to be dispatched to the seat of war, and that Sir Garnet's forces are to be reinforced with a sufficient number of new soldiers to recruit his army up to a standard of 22,000 men. When it is borne in mind that this large force is independent of the 7,000 natives, comprising the Indian contigent and the men under General Allison at Alexandria, it will readily be seen that the Egyptian rebel and his command are considered no mean enemies by the war office, whatever may be the opinion of the comanding general Meantime, while Sir Garnet is advancing at the slow rate of a little less than two milesa day, Arabi is strengthening his position at Damanhour and Tel-El-Kebin, by successive lines of entrenchments which must be carried one after the other before he can be dislodged. The engagement at Kassarin Lock a week ago, showed that this species of warfare is costly. In that skirmish the British lost 120 men, while the Egyptian force were driven back a little more than four miles.

NO YEAR has been more favorable for the railroad politicians to pack caucuses and conventions than this one. Thousands of anti-monopolists in the state stay away from the republican primaries, believing it to be inconsistent to participate in two conventions, and their strong anti-monopoly feeling will not permit them to desert the new party. This no doubt explains why Valentine has carried so many conventions, and is seemingly so popular in thr Third district. The true contest will be at the polls. Conventions this year do not voice the sentiment of the voters, and the number of republican candidates who will be defeated at the polls will be greater than ever before.—*Grafton Gazette.*

There is a great deal of frozen truth in this statement. The action of the Alliance in calling a state nominating convention has withdrawn the great mass of anti-monopoly republicans from republican caucuses, primaries and conventions. This was notably the case in the Third district. Open opposition to Valentine has come from republicans outside of the ranks of the Alliance and anti-monopoly league. Had both of these organizations seen fit to unite in opposing his candidacy at the caucus and the primary he could hardly have carried a county. But all classes of voters who are opposed to the dictation of the railroads and their tools will have their issues this fall if the republican party fails to voice the popular sentiment. The November election will be the final test of the popularity of the political shysters and acrobats whom the corporations are trying to force down the throats of the people of this state. If the republican party wishes to court defeat they are adopting the means best fitted to secure that result in permitting the party machinery to fall into the hands of the element in which the mass of the party has the least confidence. The voters of the state propose to submit no longer to the arrogant dictation of the railroad ringmasters, and any attempt to whip them into submission will be met by independent action vigorous enough to show that a perverted party machinery cannot stifle public sentiment when the people are determined to govern themselves.

ARKANSAS, Maine and Vermont hold elections this month. The last two states elect a full state and congressional ticket while in Arkansas Congressmen will not be elected until October. At the election which took place yesterday in Arkansas three tickets for state officers were in the field, the several candidates for governor being: Republican, W. S. Slack; democratic, James H. Berry; greenback, R. M. Garland. The legislature chosen will elect a United States senator. To-day Vermont holds her general election at which a governor, lieutenant-governor, state treasurer, legislature and two representatives in congress will be chosen. The republicans have nominated John L. Barstow, for governor, the democrats, George E. Eaton, and the greenbackers C. C. Martin. For congress the republicans have nominated John W. Stewart and Luke Poland, the democrats, Lyman Redington and George L. Fletcher, and the greenbackers, Dr. Kidder and H. D. Dunbar. Vermont loses one member under the new apportionment. The entire republican ticket will be elected by a solid majority.

THE political situation in Virginia is decidedly mixed. Senator Mahone has already enjoyed his easiest days of boss-ship. The revolt of our senators prevented the adoption by the legislature of the elaborate gerrymander which Mahone had devised, has been followed by other and equally important defections. Massey, the ex-auditor, one of the men who set Mahone on his pedestal, broke away and became the democratic candidate for congressman-at-large, against John S. Wise. A straightout republican candidate for the same place appeared, Rev. Mr. Dawson, a colored man, who is expected to receive some part at least of the colored republican support—all of which Mahone's necessities require, if he is to be successful. Next, the two republican representatives in congress, Jorgensen and Dezendorf, are running for re-election, notwithstanding that Mahone has placed other candidates in the field in their districts. And finally, in the Ninth district, Fulkerson, one of the "readjusters" in the present house of representatives, has come out independently, renouncing allegiance to Mahone, and defying him and all his powers. Fulkerson is an energetic leader, and will give the "boss" a lively struggle.

Altogether, it is very evident that nothing preserves Mahone's power but his control of the United States officials in Virginia. This "patronage," President Arthur, following an agreement arranged between Senators Cameron, Logan and Mahone, has placed unreservedly in the Virginian's hands, as he has given the like "patronage" in Pennsylvania into the hands of Mr Cameron. With all this patronage Mahone is still unable to control the politics of Virginia.

OUR city schools opened yesterday with a large attendance. There are few changes in the staff of teachers employed, but a new superintendent in the person of Mr. James has taken the place vacated by Mr. Lane. Patrons of our public schools have good reason to expect some radical changes in our school management under Mr. James' supervision. His long experience in Cleveland, from which city he comes with the most unqualified endorsements as a gentleman and public educator, is the best guarantee of his qualifications for the new position which he has assumed, and our people will very readily grant him that confidence which has been more or less withheld from his predecessors.

SEVERAL of our prominent candidates for state offices have suddenly withdrawn Other important business engagements prevent them from allowing a further use of their names.

RUMORS of General Sherman's intended retirement are decidedly premature. The compulsory retirement act fixes the age at which officers can retire at 64. General Sherman will not have reached that age until February 8, 1884. Under the old retiring act, no retirement can be made until the number on the present retired list falls below 400. As there are at present 420 on the list, it will be seen that the generals chances for retirement, according to its provisions, are very slight.

IT will take a much abler man than John M. Thurston to deliver eighteen delegates from Douglas county to Church Howe.

CHURCH HOWE has come to supervise the Douglas county convention, but Thurston is not in condition to deliver the goods.

VALENTINE'S six-dollar clerk now claims evesy county in the Third district for his patron saint.

MR. BLAINE'S HOME.

How He Lives and Works at Augusta—Reminiscences of a Busy Life.

Col. Curr in Philadelphia Press.

From the railroad stacion down near the river to the place on the hill, is something more than a mile. I found my way to the pleasant spot this evening, and was cordially received by its proprietor. There is nothing showy inside the house more than on the outside. Everything is arranged for comfort rather than display. Parlor, drawing, library, are all fitted and filled as unpretentiously as though the man who owned them was the village lawyer, or perchance preacher The townfolk tell me that it was built many years ago, before the landlord was the great man he now is, and that he loves to keep it and its surroundings as they were when he made it his home all the year round.

Mr. Blaine had just come in from a drive when I called. He spends a good part of each afternoon "on the road" behind a span of fine horses. I never saw him look in better health, and certainly he never seemed in better spirits.

"Yes," said he cheerfully, when I suggested his prime condition; "I am in excellent health; the climate of Maine always agrees with me. I can recuperate here faster than anywhere else in the world." The talk then turned upon general topics, and Mr. Blaine spoke with much freedom upon everything else except politics. He evinced great interest in the contest in Maine, and that he should begin his work in it at Portland on Monday night. He believes that the republicans will carry the state by a fair majority. He will take no part in politics this year, except in his own state, and has nothing but a speaking part there; as he is not on the state committee, and has no part in the management of the campaign. I had seen Mr. Blaine many times before to-night in the same surroundings. No, not in the same surroundings, for then he was overwhelmed with the work of a political campaign. The little office back of the parlor, his private work room, was then the scene of busy bustle. Clerks were at work, telegraph messengers were coming and going, men were calling by scores, and with his hand on the party helm he directed it with matchless force. Now there is none of this. The office is quiet and does not wear the air of politics. Headquarters have been moved to Portland, and Senator Frye has his hand on the party plow. Blaine seems to enjoy the change, strange as it may seem. He speaks well of his young successors and believes they will win.

No man in this country has ever before stepped from the highest place in active politics into the walks of private life without losing his temper on the way. Mr. Blaine evidently has not. There isn't a sign of regret or reproach in his speech or actions. He has no hard words for those men who have stood between him and the presidency. He seems to have settled down to enjoy life and to do his duty by the party that has honored him as he has honored it, as it shall be asked of him.

The loss of the presidency soured Clay as it did Seward, but Mr. Blaine certainly presents to friend and foe alike perfect good humor and a far more cheerful view of the future than many public men who have lost much less.

While talking with him to-night, almost in the shadow of the state house, where he began life in Augusta as a newspaper reporter, I couldn't help but wonder if many people ever stopped to think how he started in life, and what a great structure he had built from a small beginning. I remember going through the state once when he talked freely of his early life in Augusta. Entering the little dingy senate chamber, where the upper house of the Maine legislature has met for very many years, he pointed to an old fashioned desk, nearly in front of the presiding officer's seat, and said:

"There is where I began newspaper life. I reported the proceedings of the senate for the Kennebec Journal several terms. It was a great school for me. I used to educate my memory in those days by keeping the roll call on one or more bills in my mind, and not writing them out until after I went home. I got so I could remember as high as five separate votes on different bills, and then write them out hours after they were given, so as to agree with the official list of the clerk of the senate." Here was the secret of Mr. Blaine's ability, so often remarked to always have at hand names of persons and events he desired to call.

The hall of the house of delegates was the next object of interest, and there, above the clerk's desk, was the same old chair in which Mr. Blaine sat when he was speaker of the Maine house of representatives many years ago. He looked over the room so closely connected with his first step in public life, and where he gathered the rudiments of parliamentary law, of which he afterwards became the master. He spoke of the men who were there and great when he begun, and turning to the speaker's desk, as if to recall his feeling the day he was elected to fill it, said:

"When I was elected speaker of the legislature I felt prouder over it than over any office to which I have since been called or could be elected to fill. It was a great honor to be conferred on one so young. I was only twenty-six."

Other interesting reminiscences of his early life followed, and then the talk drifted into other channels Not long after this I passed down by the little printing office from which the paper is still issued, upon which he worked when chosen to the legislature, and began reaching out toward the great place he now fills in the public eye.

I suppose something on the political situation is expected, but there is really nothing of interest to write about. Everything on both sides moves along as smooth as a kitchen clock. They have got a crop of half-breeds here that are making a great deal of noise, but are without strength. A week hence and there will be something to say, for then the canvass will be complete. A list of all voters will be in, and an estimate will be worth something.

OMAHA'S HOLOCAUST.

The Fearful Fire of the Night of September 5th, 1878.

The Anniversary of the Grand Central Conflagration.

A Review of the Dreadful Occurrences of Four Years AGO.

It was the intention of the managers of the new Paxton hotel to have opened the elegant building to-day for the accommodation of the traveling public, that being the fourth anniversary of the burning of the Grand Central, which occupied the same site upon which the Paxton is built and was the most elegant hotel Omaha ever had.

The opening has, however, been postponed until Saturday, but it will be interesting to our readers, and appropriate at this time to recall some of the exciting events of the dreadful night of September 5, 1878. At a quarter to seven o'clock on that evening

A GENERAL ALARM

was sounded, which brought out the entire fire department. The location of the fire was found to be in the Mansard roof of the Grand Central, corner of Fifteenth and Farnam streets. At first only a thin cloud of smoke was seen issuing from one of the windows and curling its way upward in the air. It was a beautiful, clear night with scarcely a breath of wind and there was not the faintest doubt upon the part of those who soon gathered in great numbers at the spot that the fire department would succeed in a short time in extingishing the flames.

As to the origin of the fire, there seems to be little doubt but that it came from a candle left burning by a plasterer, who was at work in the elevator shaft, and who went to his supper about 6 in the evening. The candle burned down in its socket and then the fire being communicated to some shavings near by, or to some of the light packing material about the new furniture temporarily stored in the attic, started

THE TERRIBLE CONFLAGRATION.

This theory was confirmed by the story of Sergeant Dill, of the signal office, who was taking his supper at a restaurant when the alarm sounded. A young plasterer, who was taking supper at the same time, jumped up and exclaimed: "My God! That is my fault. I forgot and left the candle burning."

The entire fire department was soon on the spot but owing to some mismanagement the hose were filled before they were carried up the grand stairway, when it was found almost impossible to drag their dreadful weight to the third story. There was the utmost confusion, and from the great corridors below to the Mansard story were men running to and fro amid the stores of rich furniture, carpets and other equipments then being put in and

A DELUGE OF WATER

was pourning down the stairway with the rushing noise of a mountain torrent.

The flames gained strength most rapidly in the elevator shaft and those who looked upward through it from the doorway on the first floor, saw the fierce and fiery waves lashing with fury from top to bottom, the draught naturally afforded to such a portion of the building acting as a bellows to fan the conflagration to redoubled force. It was like a small section of the infernal regions and out in the court and corridors

A REGULAR PURGATORY

was illustrated. At length several streams of water were got on from the third story and for a time it was thought the fire was under control, being extinguished everywhere except in the Mansard. There the flames gradually spread until the whole roof, covering a space 132 feet square, was ablaze, and a pillar of the blackest smoke hung like a pall over the beautiful building, which it now became evident was doomed to total destruction.

To add to the complications the water gave out an hour after the fire started, and had to be pumped from distant cisterns. It began to look as if the entire block was

TO BE ANNIHILATED

by the fire fiend, and the Herald people, C. S. Goodrich, undertakers John Jacobs and Hiram Pomeroy, and a number of business men on the opposite side of the street began to pack up and vacate their buildings. Every express wagon and other available vehicle was called into requisition, and from the burning hotel to 15th street the sidewalk was crowded with a mass of men bearing goods of every conceivable description, which were piled pell mell into the scores of wagons, which being loaded were driven off as if they were fleeing from a pestilence.

A GHASTLY SIGHT

was that of hundreds of coffins standing on the sidewalk in front of the undertakers' awaiting transportation and looking like a section of the catacombs thrown up by some subterranean upheaval. As if to mock death itself, these grim iron and wooden overcoats were rattled away side by side with jumping jacks and other toys from the Goodrich stock.

By this time the fire was under full headway, and having broken through the roof, a great cloud of dense black smoke, studded with sparkling cinders as thickly as the heavens were with stars, rose to a great height, and was carried by a current of air to the northwest, dropping

BLAZING MEMENTOES

along its pathway, on sidewalk, roof and street, for miles away. In the midst of the grim darkness the holocaust offered a spectacle that for scenic effect was truly magnificent, and tens of thousands, in fact nearly every one in the city, witnessed it, the streets being crowded for blocks in every direction.

The fire department was reinforced by the Durants and by an engine from Council Bluffs sent over in response to a telegram from Mayor Wilbar, but

ALL THAT COULD BE DONE

was to blockade the further spread of the conflagration. The net work of telegraph wires in front of the burning building was melted or broken by the weight of rich Brussels and tapestry carpets, hurled from the upper stories, the splendid furniture of the building often following by the same insecure route. Telegraph communication with the east was destroyed entirely, and two morning papers were both worked off at a great disadvantage in the Republican office.

Between 12 and 1 o'clock the climax of this

NIGHT OF TERROR

was reached when the north wing of the dining room fell with a terrible crash to the floor below, just back of the office, carrying with it four members of the fire department, who had refused to profit by the warning of their comrades, who had already retreated to a place of safety. The names of these four men are still fresh in the minds of every one. They were Lon Randall, William McNamara, Louis Wilson and John Lee. At the time that the accident happened they with others were on the dining room floor nearly over the office, handling the hose and directing a stream of water. Suddenly the north wall of the room fell, and carrying everything before it, drove with a great crash to the floor below. Those who still lingered in the broad halls and corridors on the first floor saw the men descend amid the broken timbers, brick and flames into

THEIR FUNERAL PYRE

and the horrible fire swept them out of existence in a second's time. There was no hope for them on earth or brave men would have risked their lives too to save them. These were the only fatal casualties of the night although quite a number were hurt more or less seriously. Among these were Max Meyer, Henry Lockfeldt, Joseph Sheeley, Al Hartry, Billy Galligan, Louis Faist and Chas. Joannes.

All night long the fire raged with unabated fury until there was nothing left for it to feed upon. One by one the walls

CRUMBLED AND FELL,

until at 5 o'clock in the morning only a few of the iron pillars and the great brick chimney were left to mark the spot where the magnificent building had stood, and an hour later the latter fell, nearly burying in the ruins those who were searching for the remains of the dead. The criminal carelessness of one man had cost the city the lives of four brave men, and its finest building and given it a setback that it has taken four years to overcome.

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A New Overland Line.

San Francisco Chronicle.

The Boston capitalists who the stock of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, which now has a line to Denver, are said to be negotiating with the Central Pacific respecting an overland line which shall be independent of the Union Pacific. The antipathy between the owners of the Union Pacific and those of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy is of long standing, and the latter have been for some time threatening to build through to this city. Hence the efforts of the owners of the Central Pacific to meet them or stand them off. Should the latter build through Southern Nevada to meet the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy in Southern Utah, it would control four overland lines—the Southern Pacific, the Atlantic & Pacific, the Central Pacific and their new midland line. Were ever avarice greed and thirst for power better exemplified? The statement may, however, mean nothing more than that the owners of our pot monopoly are diplomasting. The Union Pacific and Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe are both dissatisfied with the overbearing way in which the Central Pacific is conducting its business. The first considers itself ill-treated in the partition of overland freight, and has sent a printed circular to merchants in this city asking for information regarding alleged over charges and offering relief. The Boston negotiations may be simply an attempt to frighten connecting lines into submission. From all this it appears that the Central Pacific is the domineering member of an unhappy family. It is to be hoped that the Boston capitalists will make no alliance with Messrs. Huntington & Co. They certainly would not if they had sorrowful knowledge of their dishonest methods gained by the people of this coast from long experience. All signs point to a new overland line from Denver to San Francisco within a few years. That it may be kept from the control of the Central Pacific is the devout prayer of the San Francisco merchant.

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