

THE DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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CHRIS SPECITY has a right to be proud of his re-election.

NOW we must expect to be compelled to read a lot of rot about Baby Ruth.

FAKING election returns to sell a few extra copies is a very small business.

Did Wyoming go democratic in spite of woman suffrage, or because of woman suffrage?

POLITICIANS who imagine that Governor McKinley is presidentially deficient do not know what they are talking about.

CHILD and Hawaii are having ministerial crises, but the attention of this country refuses to be diverted to those foreign shores.

THE Rock Island and the Milwaukee have a right to demand joint occupancy of the union depot at reasonable rates and the people will see that they get it.

IF THAT democratic landslide results in the permanent retirement of Mrs. J. Elton Foster from republican campaigns, Cleveland was not elected in vain.

THE duke of Marlborough is dead and the duchess probably realizes by this time what a blunder it is for an American woman to trade her wealth for a title.

WHY doesn't Mayor Bonis enforce the ordinance that requires the street railway company to replace its unsightly wooden poles with iron poles on the principal thoroughfares?

THE old Fike Factory and the populist organs still cling to the hope that Weaver has carried Nebraska in the face of the figures that show Harrison's plurality over Weaver as more than 5,000.

WHAT joke is this we hear about Governor Boies being appointed Secretary of Agriculture? Boies could hardly accept that position and give up his place as governor, and his ambitious designs are Wilson's seat in the United States senate.

OMAHA took part in the late elections—see the handsome pluralities given the republican nominees—but at the same time kept right on doing business. And as a result her total business, as represented by the bank clearings, shows an increase of 20.4 per cent over election week of last year.

THE city of South Omaha has for the present abandoned the effort to get bids on the sloping of banks because there is such a demand for men and horses that the bids presented are unreasonably high. This shows that the labor supply is not in excess of the demand, and it is to be hoped that this state of things will continue.

NOW we have planned some more telegraph poles on Parnassus street and the network of dangerous wires is getting thicker and thicker. A great fire is liable to sweep the city any windy day, and the killing and maiming of firemen which is bound to result from the reckless negligence of the council in permitting these overhead wires to obstruct our business streets and endanger life and property when they can and should be under ground.

THE detection and arrest of a large party of contract laborers from Belgium at Ellis island on Thursday was a good stroke of business. The enforcement of the alien labor law is demanded by the interests of the American workman and approved by all good citizens. These men had been imported by a Pittsburg glass concern and were to take the places of striking employes at low wages. The return of the men and the prosecution of the firm that had engaged them may teach a wholesome lesson.

THE monthly crop report just issued from the Agricultural department shows that Nebraska's average yield of corn per acre this year is 28.7 bushels. Ohio, with 29 bushels per acre, is the only state that equals this yield. The Kansas crop is reported as 23.3 bushels per acre. For the seven states known as the corn belt, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, the aggregate production is 1,963,000 bushels. This falls far below the yield of the same states last year, which, according to the best estimates, was about 1,900,000 bushels. Undoubtedly the truth as to this year's crop lies somewhere between these widely differing figures, for it is largely guess work after all.

THE MERCHANT MARINE.

The present congress took a step forward, thought a short one, toward the revival of the merchant marine, by passing an act allowing certain steamships of foreign construction to take out an American register. The fifty-first congress passed an act intended to stimulate American shipbuilding by the payment of mail subsidies. This legislation will undoubtedly be repeated by the next congress.

After the tariff and the currency questions, that of restoring the merchant marine is perhaps of the greatest importance. If we are to extend our foreign markets, and this is what the democratic leaders say their policy contemplates, it is manifestly of great importance that we shall be able to carry our products to such markets in our own ships. A commercial country is at a serious disadvantage that must depend wholly upon foreign vessels for the transportation of its products. This country annually pays to European ship owners more than \$200,000,000 in freight charges, an exceedingly small part of which is expended in this country. This money is paid to the foreign employes of steamship companies, to European ship builders, and to the merchants abroad who furnish the supplies for the ships. It is transferred from the pockets of the producers of the United States to the coffers of the wealthy steamship companies of England, France and Germany and helps to enrich those countries. It may be true that if we had an American merchant marine equal to the demands of our foreign commerce the producer would have to pay just as much as he now does to get his products to market, but the money would be kept in this country and expended among our own people, to the benefit of all interests. The growth of shipbuilding here, creating a demand for a great deal of labor, not only in that industry but in others which it would draw upon, would materially increase the consumption of the products of the farm and factory, and thus the money would be redistributed to American producers instead of going to those of Europe.

When one reflects upon the enormous amount of money that has gone abroad in this way during the past quarter of a century, it seems amazing that some more earnest and practical effort has not been made to restore the merchant marine and center the American people independent of the European ship owners. We have paid to these foreign capitalists for freight charges on our products within the last twenty-five years a greater sum than the national debt amounted to at the close of the war. As our foreign trade grows this outflow of money will increase, while there is the additional disadvantage of a dependence that puts our merchants and manufacturers entirely at the mercy of foreign transportation lines. This is certainly neither a creditable nor a profitable state of affairs for a great and steadily growing commercial nation.

The democratic party will now have an opportunity to deal with this important question in its own way, and we shall see whether it has the wisdom to give the country a merchant marine—American in the broadest sense—one built as well as owned in this country.

KIND WORDS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

When President Harrison retires from office on the 4th of March next he will carry with him to private life the respect and esteem of the people of the United States, whom he has served so faithfully and so well. Political opponents no less than those of his own party will honor him for his sterling manhood and his steadfast devotion to duty. Says the New York Star:

It is a pleasant thing to remember that in the canvass just ended few words have been said or written concerning General Harrison which represent him as anything but what he is, namely, a man of superior intellect and elevated character, and a chief magistrate whom the country can always regard with admiration.

These and similar words from democratic sources afford great satisfaction to those who have supported the defeated candidate for president. Such commendation of its chosen standard bearer is not without significance to the republican party, as a tribute to the honesty and sincerity of its purposes. So long as it follows the leadership of men who command universal respect and admiration—and it has many men of that kind—there can be no sapping of vitality, no loss of popular confidence and no permanent retirement from power for the great organization of which President Harrison is an exemplar.

TRUSTS AND COMBINATIONS.

There is no difference of opinion in the political parties regarding the duty of suppressing trusts and combinations to control production and prices. Both agree that this should be done and the party which will succeed to power in the government next March is pledged by its platform to enforce the existing law against trusts and to provide whatever other legislation may be found necessary for their suppression.

The law that was passed by the last republican congress has not accomplished what was expected of it. In but one case, as we remember, has it been effective in breaking up a combination of the character described in the act. In that case the United States circuit court decided that the law is constitutional and subsequently the Department of Justice instructed the federal district attorneys throughout the country to take steps for enforcing the law. Special agents of the department were also directed to collect evidence for instituting proceedings against several of the larger combinations. Suit was brought against the whisky trust, but it fell through on a technicality and no effort, so far as the public knows, has since been made to renew it. The proposed prosecution of the cordage trust did not materialize, and indeed the numerous combinations denounced in the platform of both the parties are allowed to go on as if their existence was entirely lawful and there had been no legislation for their suppression. As there remains less than four months of the present administration it is not likely that the Department of Justice will be disposed to commence proceedings against any of the trusts, and there are obvious reasons why the matter should be left to be cared for by the party that will administer the government for four years from next March.

That party will be expected to carry out its pledge in relation to trusts and monopolistic combinations existing in violation of the law and deemed to be inimical to the public interests. It will be expected to lose no time in proceeding against the sugar trust and the anthracite coal monopoly, which are plundering the people to the amount of millions of dollars annually. These combinations are independent of the tariff and will not be seriously affected by any change of tariff policy, as some of the others may be. They must be reached by the direct application of the law. One of the imperative duties that will devolve upon the democratic party when it returns to power, in order to keep faith with the people, will be to rigidly enforce the anti-trust law, and if that be found inadequate to the suppression of trusts and combinations, to supplement it with legislation that will be sufficient.

CONFERENCE AND ARBITRATION.

The collapse of the great strike in New Orleans, which began on October 22 and has nearly paralyzed business of all kinds in that city, appears to be due to the impossibility of keeping up the courage of the thousands of employes who had not a sufficient personal stake in the result of the fight to undergo the sacrifice longer. It was a sympathetic strike so far as most of the unions were concerned and embraced employes in scores of industries.

One feature of the surrender of the strikers is gratifying to all who like to see the workman have fair and even generous treatment when he is forced to yield. Through the efforts of committees representing the unions and the employers, together with the governor of the state, an agreement was reached by which all of the strikers were taken back, except where contracts have been made with the few who now fill their places and the question of wages is to be submitted to arbitration. At this distance this seems to be an arrangement that must prove mutually satisfactory and if the employers exercise good judgment in dealing with the defeated unions there may ensue an era of good feeling that will be profitable as well as pleasant to all concerned.

It is quite possible, however, that the prejudice against a president succeeding himself may be far more common than has been supposed. The fact that since Lincoln and Grant, carried over by peculiar circumstances, or by immense popularity, no president has succeeded himself is not without significance as indicating a strong popular sentiment opposed to such succession. It is hardly to be doubted that if the question of limiting the presidency to one term were submitted to the people a large majority would be found to favor it, with the provision, perhaps, that the term be made longer than four years. We do not think that the one-term idea had any appreciable effect anywhere in the late election, but it presents a question that is worthy of the consideration of the political parties, and the one that first declares for a single presidential term will doubtless gain in popular strength.

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The Board of Health at its last meeting considered one subject that will no doubt develop into a problem of some importance next summer if there is a renewal of the cholera scare. The use of well water in the outlying districts of the city, and particularly in the region lying near the Prospect Hill cemetery, is said by the health officer to be the probable cause of much of the sickness from contagious diseases. While the mortality has not been great there have been many cases of more or less severity during the past few months. During October, according to the report, the number of cases of contagious disease was seventy-nine, but few of these were fatal. The substitution of city water for that now taken from wells may become an imperative necessity before long. The change will be expensive and may meet with opposition, but public health must be guarded.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MILLER remarked in commenting on the election that it is up-hill work re-selecting any man to any office, and a Washington dispatch says that it is the opinion there that a plank will be inserted in future platforms which will itself determine the question of a second presidential term. This subject was somewhat discussed in advance of the meeting of the republican national convention, but the prevailing opinion among republicans was that there was no general popular sentiment unfavorable to a second term.

It is quite possible, however, that the prejudice against a president succeeding himself may be far more common than has been supposed. The fact that since Lincoln and Grant, carried over by peculiar circumstances, or by immense popularity, no president has succeeded himself is not without significance as indicating a strong popular sentiment opposed to such succession. It is hardly to be doubted that if the question of limiting the presidency to one term were submitted to the people a large majority would be found to favor it, with the provision, perhaps, that the term be made longer than four years. We do not think that the one-term idea had any appreciable effect anywhere in the late election, but it presents a question that is worthy of the consideration of the political parties, and the one that first declares for a single presidential term will doubtless gain in popular strength.

It is now eight months since the council established the office of city electrician, but the ordinance defining his duties and powers and regulating the inspection of electric light, motor and telegraph wires is still slumbering in a pigeon hole. What other inference can be drawn than that the franchised corporations have a deadly grip on certain councilmen?

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

The antagonism of the House of Lords to the home rule bill that the Commons are likely to adopt is assured, it becomes interesting to consider how that antagonism will be met, and by what means it can be overcome. It has been announced that Mr. Gladstone intends to secure a majority of the Lords by creating as many new peers as it may be necessary to procure, and Lord Salisbury gives weight to that rumor by explaining how he and his colleagues propose to meet such a move if it is made. He says that the newly created peers would be refused admission to the house, and the cities some other device, or precedents to support the constitutionality of such refusal. It is difficult to see how this could be done. The letters patent under which peers of the realm are created carry with them the right to a seat in the hereditary chamber and to dispute that right would be in effect an act of rebellion against the sovereign granting it. It would be a kind of treason, and when it came to the point, the Lords would have to stand up for the rule, public opinion might not support such a wholesale creation of peerages as would be necessary to overcome it, and another contingency which has not yet been suggested might possibly arise. The queen might refuse to sanction the issue of the requisite letters patent. In creating peerages the queen would do more than carry out the suggestion of the Commons, she would have to do more. The creation of peerages is a special case, her personal act and she might refuse to be a party to Mr. Gladstone's purposes. Consider that her own sympathies are all with Lord Salisbury in this struggle, she would almost certainly do so if assured of public support and according to the election returns England would be with Mr. Gladstone. It is probable that Mr. Gladstone will resort to any such device as the creation of from 300 to 500 new peers. What fresh such move likely to do when the Lords reject the home rule bill is temporarily to accept the situation and proceed to a further reform of the ballot on the principle of manhood suffrage and one man one vote—for at present the Briton can vote in as many election districts as he happens to possess real estate—and having thus radically popularized the electorate, dissolve parliament and appeal to the country. It may be said that his new ballot reform bill might also be thrown out by the Lords, but in that case he would have a popular issue wherewith to go to the country, a much more popular one than Irish home rule. Parliament does not assemble until next August, but there are some lively scenes ahead of it which will result in a struggle between Lords and Commons more momentous and interesting than any history records is already assured.

SOME NEEDED REFORMS.

The adoption of the Australian system has given us ballot reform, but we still lack reform in the method of canvassing election returns. The refusal by many of the judges and clerks of election to carry out the directions given by the county commissioners and mayor for a uniform count, beginning with the electoral ticket and ending with precinct officers, caused a great deal of confusion and delay.

The only remedy for this is a law that will require election officers to count the ballots in a given order. To expedite the count, provision should also be made by law for counting the vote in metropolitan cities from hour to hour, as is done in New York.

Another needed reform is that the canvass of the vote shall begin the morning after election and continue as rapidly as possible until all the returns have been received. To wait until the last precinct has made its return delays the canvass two or three days. Such bungling is tolerated in no other city in the country. The county officers should have all their blanks ready before election and the men who are to constitute the canvassing board should be notified to hold themselves in readiness to begin work the morning after election. Had this method been pursued the canvass of Douglas county returns would have been completed Thursday. This is no reflection upon County Clerk Sackett, who has introduced several important improvements for compiling and canvassing the vote. Mr. Sackett has simply followed the precedent heretofore established, not to begin the canvass until the last box is in. It is to be hoped that he will break away from this precedent next year and begin the canvass the morning after the election.

The Board of