

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday) One Year, \$1.00...

A PARTISAN PROPOSITION.

The efficiency of the railway mail service is threatened by a proposition which has been favorably acted upon by the demerits of the house judiciary committee. This is a measure to restore 1,000 railway mail clerks who were dismissed from the service in the spring of 1889 to their former positions.

No more reckless disregard of the interests of the people and of the efficiency of a branch of the public service was ever shown than that which characterized the course of Postmaster General Dickinson in the last year of Mr. Cleveland's administration.

Insurance men in Iowa are in a fair way to gather the crop that is the natural result of their injudicious seeding. Having sown the wind of advance in rates and the 80 per cent clause with a lapse of ninety days between the occurrence of a fire and the settlement of the policy, they are now reaping the whirlwind of legislation.

When the Harrison administration came in the railway mail service was in a more demoralized and inefficient state than ever before since it had been organized. The new administration had no more difficult or important task than that of restoring the usefulness and efficiency of this service.

It ought to be impossible for the proposed measure to reinstate the clerks who were removed from the railway mail service between March and May of 1889 to pass either branch of congress, but it is to be feared that it may be carried through both, so eager is the desire of the demerits to seize upon everything that is in sight.

AT THE CROSS ROADS.

The Union Pacific managers, or rather the receivers, now find themselves at a point that may be termed the cross roads. The railroad has been insolvent for several years by reason of an enormous bonded debt and fictitious capitalization.

If that federal grand jury at Chicago can't find a few instances of violations of the interstate commerce law by the officials in charge of the railroad systems centering in that city it ought to be set to work to see if it can discover the hole in a mill stone.

Hon. Charles H. Gere, who is watching the waning days of his occupancy of the Lincoln postoffice, has had his titles supplemented with that of A. M. by the courtesy of the State university. Mr. Gere is probably the only man in Nebraska who can lay claim to the honor of both A. M. and P. M.

Henry D. Estabrook, who spoke at the Lincoln memorial meeting in New York, scored an oratorical triumph. The Tribune says "it was the best speech of the evening." Mr. Estabrook is a product of the will, woolly west, but he has evidently given the Knickerbockers pants and beaten them out. Come west, young man!

With the government's bill for infrequent and scanty cable advices from the United States legisla at Rio Janeiro of over \$4,000 the general public gets an inkling of the expense of the full Brazilian cable reports which the press serves up to its readers daily. It will also probably appreciate the Brazilian news more.

Nebraska is to be congratulated over the fact that Senator Allen does not agree with his demopopulist brethren in the house in regard to the policy of striking down a prominent industry in his own state. He will insist that the sugar interests be protected, and in this he will have the thanks of all Nebraskans without regard to party affiliation.

Headman Maxwell boasts that he has decapitated 2,000 more first class postmasters during the past ten months than Headman Clarkson did in the corresponding ten months in the previous administration. Even this gives the Nebraska democrat but little comfort. The present headman seems to have forgotten the existence of Nebraska.

They say that Secretary Carlisle has been wishing that he had never given up his seat in the senate to take hold of the thankless task of trying to make the government's revenues approximate its expenditures. Mr. Carlisle is not the first man who wished he hadn't. He ought, however, to find some compensation in the thought that things can't grow much worse than they are at present.

stronger safeguard against violations of the alien contract labor law. It is important to the interests of American labor that this law shall be rigidly enforced, and it has been charged that such is not the case. This charge was unfounded there is, of course, no necessity for consular inspection, and if there were necessity for it, obviously it would be impracticable to have an efficient inspection without increasing the force, and consequently the expense, at the principal consulates.

As for Senator Hill and his democratic compatriots they have been actuated by nothing more than a desire to secure a vote in the distribution of federal patronage within their respective states. Hide it as they may behind the guise of "senatorial courtesy" or the charge that the nominee lacks "a judicial temper," they have been fighting for the spoils and the spoils alone. Emboldened by their victories over Hornblower and Peckham they will probably stand ready to continue the fight so long as they can command the assistance of the necessary majority of their fellow senators.

INSURANCE IN IOWA.

Insurance men in Iowa are in a fair way to gather the crop that is the natural result of their injudicious seeding. Having sown the wind of advance in rates and the 80 per cent clause with a lapse of ninety days between the occurrence of a fire and the settlement of the policy, they are now reaping the whirlwind of legislation. Bills are pending in the legislature which propose many alterations in the present insurance laws. One of these is to increase the tax levied on the gross business transacted by the companies in the state.

For months the insurance companies have been putting the screws on the Iowa property owners, the evident intention being to make the rate "all the traffic would bear." Protests loud and long have been sent up from the business communities affected by the advances, but no relief has been given. Invariably the answer from the insurance companies, through the manager of the Iowa pool, has been that rates were too low.

The arrest of four men charged with obtaining money under false representations by the means of arranging for a charity ball for the benefit of a fictitious lodge emphasizes the necessity of having all relief movements under the control of responsible organizations. Indiscriminate purchases of charity entertainment tickets is almost as dangerous as the indiscriminate giving of alms. Every dollar diverted to the use of irresponsible swindlers means just so much taken from the funds devoted to the deserving poor.

We do not pretend to be the keeper of the democratic conscience, but we can give the leaders of the enlightened party a tip that may be taken for what it is worth, to wit: That the long-delayed federal appointments will all go to men who have rendered the party little or no service unless opposing factions get together and agree upon men who are really deserving of the official plum.

Retiring the Bosses.

Even the bosses are gradually diminishing their influence in pool-pooling as the strength and importance of the independent elements in both parties in this state. The American spirit of rebellion to dictation is asserting itself all along the line. Keep the ball rolling.

The Era of Conciliation.

When Mr. Cleveland conciliates he conciliates in earnest. The Kaiser sent Eisenhower a bottle of wine, but the president sends Senator Cockerill an attorneyship and a dictation to discontinue himself all along the line. Keep the ball rolling.

THOSE BALLOON SLEEVES.

Women are angels—the poets have said it. Over and over and over again. Fashion's in league with them—much to her credit. So insist all but the horrible men. Look at a fashion plate, all ye who doubt. Gaze at the sleeves which are growing thinner. Then think of fashion, and murmur about it. It is at its future, and cry out, "Oh, whence?" Half of the gas that is said to deride these mammoth sleeves that to fashion are balloons. Instead of merely pruned inside them. Why not make most exquisite balloons? Then when the women who wore them came ambling down the street. Fairylike round us, before our dazed eyes. We would imagine that angels were rambling. Far from their dominions up in the skies.

MR. PECKHAM REJECTED. The rejection of the nomination of Mr. Wheeler H. Peckham for associate justice of the supreme court of the United States in the senate yesterday by the decisive vote of 40 to 31—a majority against confirmation ever greater than had been claimed by the active opponents of the nominee—is a stinging rebuke to President Cleveland, view it in whatever light we will. It would no doubt be wrong to interpret the decision of the senate solely as an endorsement of the nomination of Senator Hill in his personal warfare with the president, although the senator's partisans may be expected to regard it as such. There were several objections urged against the fitness of Mr. Peckham for the place to which he had been nominated, the most weighty being his advanced age. It was reported not long ago that there was a mutual understanding among the members of the senate that no one who had passed his 60th year should be elevated to the supreme bench. The practice of over a century has been found to conform to the principle upon which this agreement was based, but four appointments in the whole long list having been made of men older than 60 years. The greatest names in that galaxy that has graced the bench of our highest tribunal are those of men who assumed the robe when still comparatively young and who were thus enabled to give their country the advantages of a long career in its service. A man who has turned his 60th year is in danger of soon having his mental faculties impaired and can at best

remain on the bench but a short time. This argument may have appealed strongly to those republican senators who viewed the situation impartially and to whose votes the decision adverse to confirmation was due. The populists voted in a body to reject the nomination of Mr. Peckham. Their determination to act in conjunction with Senator Hill and against the wishes of the president are due doubtless to the representations made to them that Mr. Peckham was in close touch with corporation interests and backed by the dread money power of Wall street. It is also to be noted that nearly all the free silver senators ranged themselves in line with the populists and with Senator Hill. Whether they were influenced in their attitudes by the recollection of the president's fight for the unconditional repeal of the Sherman silver purchase law is a point upon which the curious are free to speculate.

As for Senator Hill and his democratic compatriots they have been actuated by nothing more than a desire to secure a vote in the distribution of federal patronage within their respective states. Hide it as they may behind the guise of "senatorial courtesy" or the charge that the nominee lacks "a judicial temper," they have been fighting for the spoils and the spoils alone. Emboldened by their victories over Hornblower and Peckham they will probably stand ready to continue the fight so long as they can command the assistance of the necessary majority of their fellow senators. Cleveland precludes the assumption that he will yield easily to the show of force on the part of the senate. The rejection of Mr. Peckham can only deepen the chasm between the Hill and Cleveland factions and leave the final outcome of the controversy still in doubt.

A dispatch from South Sioux City states that the show of fraternal friendship of Sioux City, Ia., in making of Covington, a little Nebraska hamlet, a rendezvous for thugs and would-be prize fighters. It is implied that while Sioux City will not tolerate this social excrement the law officers on the west bank of the river are not averse to their contents. However this may be, the laws of Nebraska speak in no uncertain terms on the subject. Chapter III, section 5,682, of the criminal code provides a penalty of imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than one year nor more than ten years for any one convicted of prize fighting. This law has been rigidly enforced and there is no reason to think that it will not be hereafter. If the Covington authorities will not do their duty which in Dakota county may step in and clear the dock. Should he ignore the law and neglect his duty he can be removed and a man appointed to his place who will stamp out the human vermin that has heretofore disgraced and debauched the little town of Covington.

There have been altogether too many attempts at jury fixing discovered in this district of late and how many such attempts have been successfully kept secret no one will ever be able to know. Nothing short of radical measures will suffice to repress this flagrant abuse. It is to be feared that the professional jury fixers in attendance upon the courts are becoming bolder in their operations, which in some instances may possibly be invited by individual jurors who are not averse to turning a dishonest penny now and then. The latest instance of alleged jury fixing should be made the occasion of a thorough and searching investigation. Not only should any one found to be implicated in the practice be subjected to severe penalties under the law, but any attorney who connives at the work should be promptly disbarred. The right of every citizen to have strict justice meted out to him must not be endangered by the continuance of this abuse.

The arrest of four men charged with obtaining money under false representations by the means of arranging for a charity ball for the benefit of a fictitious lodge emphasizes the necessity of having all relief movements under the control of responsible organizations. Indiscriminate purchases of charity entertainment tickets is almost as dangerous as the indiscriminate giving of alms. Every dollar diverted to the use of irresponsible swindlers means just so much taken from the funds devoted to the deserving poor.

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Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report. Baking King ABSOLUTELY PURE

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.

There are good business reasons why German manufacturers should go into Russia. Russia is a vast market, and is being opened up by the tariff barriers. German manufacturers demand the wider market, and Russian consumers of German goods clamor for the lower prices which the new reciprocity treaty will make possible. What is true of German goods in Russia is true of Russian food products in Germany. German workmen need them, and are likely to get them in spite of the intense opposition of the agrarian party—and large land owners and the farmers—to this treaty. These agrarians have gone to the extreme of opposition in antagonizing this treaty, and refused to be moved by the appeal of the German emperor for their assent. Nevertheless, they must give way, for Caprivi has announced that if the present Reichstag refuses to confirm it, dissolution and an appeal to the country will follow at once. Emperor William goes further and gives the treaty the highest political importance. At the dinner to Caprivi he said that the rejection of this treaty would lead to a war with Russia, while its ratification would cement a friendship between the two countries. Czar Alexander, William said, wanted peace, and to that end urged the treaty. Without also water and land, he too, urges the treaty. This is an interesting statement, and gives warrant for French uneasiness. If it be true that there is a close understanding between Germany and Russia, which becomes of French hopes of Russian assistance to repress the Triple Alliance to be broken? To every country in Europe but France these signs of amity between Germany and Russia are welcome. To us they are tremendous burdens of debt, and her internal disturbances, the prospect of prolonged peace is worth everything. So with us, a poor condition for war, in spite of her enormous armament, if Emperor William is right in his belief that the present war is lifted for a while, and all Europe will breathe easier.

France has met at Timbuctoo the reverse which has always been confidently anticipated whenever the French advance either south from Algeria or east from Senegal met the great Touareg tribes of Berber origin who extend for 1,000 miles along the comparatively elevated region which constitutes the southern edge of what is still shown on our maps the Sahara. Yet France must hold and occupy Timbuctoo and the region for 500 miles beyond it the ambitious project of making northwest Africa French territory. The plan looks to be carried out. The French territory extending south from Algeria until it meets another great band of French territory extending east from Senegal, and Timbuctoo means with any other words, the western end of the continent of Africa. Once joined Morocco and the region about it will be hemmed in by French territory. The progress from the coast of Senegal inland has been hitherto comparatively easy because there are only negro tribes. The progress south from Algeria is harder because the Touaregs are met earlier. In neither case has France desired to bring on a conflict, but the praise lavished on Lieutenant Caron when he ran his gunboat up to Timbuctoo six years ago has rendered French officers willing to risk much to enter the city. Now that it is entered it will be held and the river Niger makes this easy. The city itself is not what it once was dismantled in 1825, when it was captured by the Touaregs, it has since been not a capital, but a trading city, through which pass the most important caravan routes of the western Sudan.

Glowing accounts are given of the destructive capabilities of the new Salivator mitrailleuse which has been adopted by the American military authorities. The weapon is not intended for use in the field, as in the case of the English Maxim and Nordenfolt machine gun, but will be mounted on the outskirts encircling important fortresses. It is only half the weight of the Maxim, and its average rate of discharge is about the same per minute, with a range of 200 to 300. The diameter of the bore is eight millimetres, being similar to that of the Mannlicher repeating rifle now in use in the Austrian service. The barrel is not encased in a water jacket, but it is said that 1,200 continuous rounds can be fired before it shows any signs of heating. The weapon is carried as supplied in the Nordenfolt from a large "hopper" fixed above the firing chamber. The piece is fired by means of a trigger which is connected with a recoil spring supplies the automatic action. But the principal point of interest, in which the new gun differs entirely from similar weapons in use in other countries, is an oscillating pendulum regulating the speed of fire. By this device a moderately heavy discharge of thirty, fifty, to 100 rounds per minute can be maintained, and increased at will. The saving of ammunition is enormous, and the mechanism is said to be very simple. Altogether the new Salivator is a forward stride in the gentle art of wholesale slaughter.

A law, the influence of which may be felt beyond its own dominions of the emperor of China, is now under consideration by the officials of the Celestial empire. It is nothing less than a repeal of the old statute which forbids the Chinese to emigrate under pain of decapitation. Although obsolete, this ancient enactment is used by informers and the local mandarins as a means of extorting tribute from returning emigrants. In order that they may secure immunity from its penalties, the exactions and blackmail levied on these returning Chinese seem almost incredible, but there are several well attested instances in which wealthy Chinese from Singapore have been stripped of their entire personal possessions before having reached their homes. It is estimated by the Chinese consul general at Singapore that of the 1,000,000 Chinese residing at the Straits Settlement at least one-half of them would immediately return home but for fear of these exactions. The new law might go far toward solving the Chinese immigration question. It is the wish of every Chinaman to go home to die, and many would doubtless depart each year if they could be protected against the official rapacity which is fostered by the existing law.

According to a report in a Russian military paper the German military authorities have decided upon a new smokeless powder, which will be furnished to the troops as quickly as possible. The existing brand will be discarded and the cartridges already in store will either be used in maneuvers or sold to less particular nations. The same authority declares that machinery for the manufacture of the new powder is now in process of construction at Spandau and that a sufficient supply cannot be made in less than two years. The story is important, if true, as such a condition of affairs would be conducive to peace. It is also reported that an excellent type of smokeless powder, apirite, has been patented at Stockholm; it evolves but little heat and no flame, and is not transported without risk, and it is not susceptible of damp or heat. Comparative trials between ten pounds of a nitre powder and fifteen pounds of ordinary Swedish powder and apirite fired from a small calibre magazine rifle, showed that apirite heated the barrel less than either of the others. Eight hundred rounds of apirite were fired from a rifle left uncleaned for a week, after which the bore—so it is said—was found to be as clean and fit for use as if just prepared for firing.

LIBERAL-UNIONISTS HOPE TO STAY THE STORM AGAINST THE LORDS. LONDON, Feb. 15.—The duke of Devonshire, Sir Henry James, Mr. Jesse Collins and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain were the principal speakers at a meeting held last night. Sir Henry James and Mr. Collins both insisted strongly against an action which would prove a conflict between the House of Lords and the House of Commons. They said that it must not be taken for granted that the House of Lords will acquiesce in the rejection of their amendments to the parish councils bill, and added that as far as could be ascertained the bill would again be returned to the House of Commons, and that a conference between the representatives of the two houses would be held to settle the terms of a compromise.

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TRYING TO PATCH UP PEACE.

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ARE ON THEIR GUARD.

Further Outrages in Paris Feared—Anarchists Called to Meet in a Bank. LONDON, Feb. 16.—A dispatch to the Standard from Paris says: The Rothschild's bank in this city is guarded by an extra force of police as the result of an anarchist placard that was posted upon the door of the bank announcing that a meeting of the society would be held inside the building and requesting the brethren who were skilful in the locksmith trade to bring with them skeleton keys and crowbars in case of the safes being opened by Paris agents. The placard of the Elysee was guarded last night. The guests who attended the president's ball had to show their tickets twice before they could gain admittance.

HOIST BY HIS OWN PETARD. One Suspected Anarchist Succeeded in Blowing Himself Up. LONDON, Feb. 15.—A Frenchman, who is supposed to have been an anarchist, was blown almost to pieces last night in Green-park. Near by were found fragments of a bottle which evidently had contained explosive material. His hand and wrist were blown away, his face and body were covered with wounds and there was a gaping wound in his stomach. A portion of the forehead protruded. When found he was only able to say, "Take me home."

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