

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

P. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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THE BEE ON TRAINS. All railroad newsboys are supplied with enough Bees to accommodate every passenger who wants to read a newspaper.

INSIST ON HAVING THE BEE. Call it St. Carson's day in the morning.

Next city election comes Tuesday, April 20. New city officials take office Monday, May 10.

Worse than the 14, 13, 15 puzzle—how to squeeze eighteen councilmen into nine councilmanships.

The best reports of the great pugilistic combat in Nevada will appear in The Bee. Read The Bee.

The legislature that has no bribery sensation to offer to the public cannot pretend to be up with the times.

In meeting out punishment to the betrayers of public trust the law must recognize no person, no party and no creed.

King Caucus wants it distinctly understood that he is a bigger mogul in the populist realm than in the dominion of any other political party.

Not until embezzlement is made odious by the prompt punishment of public thieves will the unqualified success of popular government be vindicated.

It is in accord with the eternal fitness of things for the school board to commission Captain Covell, C. S. A., to sandbag Colonel Frank Moores, U. S. A.

After all nine judiciously selected councilmen are quite as likely as eighteen to look with favorable eyes upon municipal ownership of Mayor Broatch's private printing press.

Continued visions of airships, seen by devout men and women on their way home from church, bear unimpeachable witness to the vigor of the preaching to which they have been listening.

The school board must improvise some litigation with other local authorities if for no other purpose than to manufacture an excuse for maintaining that needless salaried school board attorney.

The legislature can give the people of Omaha any charter it may see fit to impose upon them. It remains to be seen, however, whether the legislature can fill the offices created by the charter with men of its choosing.

When Broatch was mayor of Omaha the first time his term was lengthened out by the legislature of 1889 by the addition of eight months. Now his term is to be cut short by nearly eight months. Thus the whirligig of time evens things up.

Speaker Reed promises to do all in his power to make this congress known as a business congress. That is what the people want. By buckling down to work and going home as soon as the work is finished congress will achieve an enviable reputation.

The Howell-Ransom charter makes the city treasurer ex-officio treasurer of the school board. But it carefully omits making the city attorney ex-officio attorney for the school board. Captain Covell, C. S. A., was not to be reformed out of his sinecure.

President McKinley now has congress on his hands, but he is because he wants to have the assistance of congress in meeting the problems before him. If he did not want congress on his hands just now he would not have called the extra session for the earliest possible day.

Let it be granted that some holders of real estate will be benefited by the exposition wherever it is located. If this be true, all sites stand on a practical equality in this respect and the factor of individual gain may well be eliminated from the problem in favor of considerations which more nearly affect the well-being of the exposition itself.

THE COERCION OF GREECE.

The determination of the powers to coerce Greece is no longer to be doubted. The statement made by the French minister of foreign affairs in the chamber of deputies shows that the concert of the powers is unanimous and that none of the six nations is disposed to disturb it. It had seemed possible that France might refuse to participate in coercive measures, but her interests involved are stronger than her sympathy and she will do her part in compelling Greece to abandon the Crotan cause. It is a sorry spectacle, this of the six great European powers, controlling by their governments 682,000,000 human beings and having 17,000,000 soldiers, standing over one little nation which is ready to stake her all for the cause of liberty, but it is perhaps the only course to avert a war which once started could hardly fall to ultimately involve all Europe. Such a possibility of the European powers who are capable of preserving peace cannot regard with indifference, however much they may sympathize with the desire of Greece to relieve a kindred people from a hated rule and enable them to choose their government. It would manifestly be useless for Greece to offer any resistance to the united action of the powers. She can do nothing in Crete without their consent and should she encourage an outbreak on her frontier, of which there is some danger, it is not apparent how she could derive any advantage from it. She has won the admiration of civilized mankind for her courageous course, which will not, there is reason to think, be altogether fruitless.

A CONVINCING ILLUSTRATION.

A stumbling block to the foes of protection which they avoid, if possible, is the remarkable growth of the tin plate industry in the United States under the stimulating effect of moderate protection. When it was first proposed to put a duty on tin plate there was a great outcry against it and the free traders in congress denounced the proposition in unmeasured terms. They declared that such an effort to establish the industry in this country would be abortive and that to subject the foreign product to a duty would be a great wrong to the people. In this as in all other respects the enemies of protection were wrong and the progress of this industry supplies one of the most convincing illustrations of the value of protection.

Special Agent Ayer of the treasury department has recently given out figures showing the growth of the tin plate industry since 1890. According to his report, within three years after the enactment of the McKinley law there had been established in this country thirty-five tin mills, with an annual capacity of 30,000,000 pounds. Now there are seventy-four such mills with an annual output of 307,000,000 pounds. Seven years ago little or no tin was made in this country, whereas now there is manufactured almost half of the tin consumed in the United States. In 1890 the imports of Welsh tin amounted to 680,000,000 pounds, while last year they were but little more than half that amount. Meanwhile the average price of tin plate has declined, so that the people have been benefited.

The industry will continue to develop and it is only a question of a few years when all the tin consumed in the country will be made here. There is already invested in it large capital and it gives employment to a great deal of labor. It is a most important industry if it should remain where it is, but it will steadily expand until it is not only able to supply the home demand, but to enter into competition for other markets.

THE CHIEF POINT OF ATTACK.

The wool schedule will be the chief point of attack by the opponents of the new tariff bill. It restores the duties of the McKinley law, which a free trade organ characterizes as barbarous. The Republicans will be able to present some very cogent and convincing arguments in support of this schedule. They will be able to show that the rate of increase of American wool under protection was greater than in any other nation of the world. In 1889 the number of sheep in the country was 40,000,000 and there was a steady increase for six years, until the number reached 50,000,000. Then there came a decline and in 1891 the number was 43,000,000. There was an increase to 47,000,000 in 1893, since which time there has been a steady decline in the number of sheep, while their value has fallen off largely. Probably there are no more sheep now in the United States than there were twenty years ago and they are not worth so much as then. In 1894, before the free wool legislation, it was stated on the authority of the North Pacific Wool Growers' association that wool production engaged the capital and labor of more than 1,000,000 farmers and about 100,000 wool growers west of the Mississippi river as a special product, producing 200,000,000 pounds of fleeces wool and employing some 50,000 herdsmen. This industry, so valuable to the west, is not much more than half what it was three years ago, owing altogether, as those engaged in it assert, to the adverse legislation of the last democratic congress. Under protection the average price of American wool was considerably higher than wool of the same kind and quality in the free trade markets of the world, while since wool was placed on the free list the average price has been materially lower than similar wool in the markets of the world. Importations of wool have been very heavy since the existing tariff went into effect. In 1894 wool was imported to the value of a little over \$12,000,000, while in 1895, with free wool, the value of the importations amounted to nearly \$34,000,000—a generous contribution to foreign wool growers at the expense of the American producers.

The advocates of free wool said it would stimulate sheep husbandry in this country. It has had the opposite effect. They also contended that it would be a great boon to American woolen manufacturers, enabling them to successfully compete with European manufacturers in the world's markets. Every-

body knows that it has had no such result. In the report of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers last year it was said: "The American mills have partaken of none of the prosperity which has blessed Bradford and Batley, England. In some lines of manufacture they have been fairly busy; but in others, and notably in the cloth manufacture, which employs the looms of the great bulk of our mills, the year has been one of severest trial; some of these mills have not been in operation, others have run only portions of their machinery, the most have been obliged to market their production at prices which render it hardly worth while to manufacture, if not at actual loss." The situation was worse in 1896 than in the preceding year. With duties on woolen goods largely reduced the American manufacturer was not able to retain his former share of the home market, to say nothing of competing in foreign markets. Perhaps it is true that there has been some benefit to the consumer, but this has not been so material as to offset the disastrous effects of free wool upon the wool-growing interest and the great injury to the woolen manufacturing industry by the stimulant of foreign competition which the present tariff law gave.

But a vigorous fight on the wool schedule of the new tariff bill is certain to be made and it may result in a modification of rates. The conflict between the manufacturers and the wool growers, if continued, will be likely to bring this about.

WHY THE CHARTER WAS RUSHED.

Why was the new charter railroad through the house under whip and spur and why was the governor roused out of bed to sign it at his home? Was it done to save Omaha from the grasp of the water works monopoly? Not by any means. Anybody who knows Howell and Ransom would know that they were not concerned about the water franchise or the pending settlement of its disputed claims. If that had been the real object there would have been ample time for the governor to sign the bill in the state house Tuesday morning, since the council could not act upon the mayor's veto until Tuesday night.

The real object of this extraordinary proceeding is manifest upon examination of the provisions of the new charter. Originally the Howell charter provided for an election on the first Tuesday in April, 1897, but the fear that the bill could not pass with the emergency clause led its framers to change this feature. Instead of fixing the date of the election the amended bill provides that the election shall take place on the sixth Tuesday after the act goes into effect and that the candidates then elected shall assume office on the third Monday succeeding their election.

By rushing the bill through the house without amendment and procuring the governor's signature before midnight Monday the election is brought on a whole week sooner than it would have been had the governor delayed signing the bill until the next morning. Advancing the election one week will enable the newly elected city officials to begin drawing salaries one week sooner. The water works bugbear was a good enough Morgan for the charter jugglers who expect to walk out of the legislative chamber into the city hall with a three years' term guaranteed and a large batch of patronage to ladle out.

This is the real milk in the charter account filtered through the water works settlement basin. But taking a horse to water does not always make him drink.

COUNSELING ANARCHY.

John L. Webster declared in the Chamber of Commerce that the water works were forfeited to the city of Omaha when the American Water Works company, which owned the plant and held the franchise, was wound up by foreclosure of the mortgage caddled upon it by his client, Venner. Taking his cue from Webster's declaration that "the water works are ours," Mayor Broatch advocates their forcible seizure without troubling ourselves to raise the money for their purchase. Had such talk been indulged in by socialists or anarchists the law-abiding people of the community would have been shocked. Coming as it does from a mountebank mayor, frantic with an insane ambition to be continued in office and playing for votes and inspired as it is by the attorney for the men who wrecked the American Water Works company by colossal inflation of its stocks and bonds, the inflammatory talk will pass for what it is worth.

The people of Omaha have not yet forgotten the pernicious influence of Webster on Broatch when Webster was city attorney and Broatch was mayor. Mills are being struck in the Omaha markets are firm and the better for it, which everybody has been looking for four years appear to be in sight.

Modern and Ancient Snobbery.

The recent publication of a subscription book sold at \$1.00 and \$2.00 a copy and dealing with the history of the growing business confidence. Enterprise is beginning to quicken all over the country. Mills are being struck, the better for it, markets are firm and the better for it, which everybody has been looking for four years appear to be in sight.

Patriotism of the Greeks.

Lord Byron found in Greece "The sun, the soil, but not the same." The men and conditions have changed there since his time. The Greek is no longer the "craving, crouching slave" whom the hard found skulking about the scene of Thermopylae, but is rather like one of the 293 who made good a place of deathly memories. There is a note of freedom in the Greek now, and it is not a note that apparently brags up and flings at the continental powers single-handed. It is a note of freedom, the traditions of valor which belong to the heroic age of his country. Even her dispersed sons as far as the Mississippi and the mining centers of the Rocky Mountains feel the thrill of patriotism animating their bosoms and are ready to take ship for home and re-enact the courageous exploits of Theseus and Hercules. It is no longer to be said of the Greek that "This Greece, but living Greece no more." It is very much alive, indeed, with a determined assertion of vitality which the great powers find a trifle insubordinate, but which public opinion everywhere greets with sympathy and ardor.

would hardly get the money are the very men whom Webster and Broatch denounced as "New York sharks."

When the city engineer was charged with demanding a \$100-a-month job for Solon L. Wiley from the water works company he publicly denied that he had ever even spoken about such a matter to any one. The sworn testimony taken by the council substantiated the charge. When Mayor Broatch was asked if he had not told Wiley that he signed the new electric lighting contract, pledged himself to approve the water works ordinance by which its contract was to be extended for ten years in consideration of 150 free fire hydrants, he had the audacity to say he had never made any such pledge. If the council should investigate this denial it would find by the indisputable testimony of several witnesses that Mayor Broatch did make this pledge.

The new charter sets a rigid limit to the amount to be raised by taxation for each of the city funds with the exception of the school fund. The school tax may, so far as the charter is concerned, equal or even double all the other taxes combined. This little loophole for skyrocketing the tax rate is intentional. It is left to fit into Broatch's law Ransom's bill to compel the council to impose whatever school levy the school board may make requisition for. The Bee always did maintain that that salaried school board attorney was an expensive luxury for the taxpayers.

Now York is now complaining that the freight differentials established by the Joint Traffic association discriminate against it and in favor of other seaboard cities. The power to fix freight differentials is unquestionably one whose arbitrary exercise makes the railroads so potent for good or evil, and it is rightly subject to review by the Interstate Commerce commission. And when the commission gets through straightening things out in the east there are plenty of instances of discrimination in the west to keep it busy for a little while.

Senator Allen politely declines to lend his support to the Torrey bankruptcy bill in spite of the resolutions of the fusion legislature requesting him to do so. Senator Allen evidently does not subscribe to the doctrine that he is a mere ambassador to Washington bound to execute the orders of the legislature, his own judgment to the contrary notwithstanding. In a word, Senator Allen repudiates the whole state rights idea.

The Oregon Short Line is now a railroad entirely separate and distinct from the Union Pacific. The time is sure to come, however, when the different links of that great transcontinental railway system are bound to be joined together again under a single management. The re-unification of the Union Pacific is the great work for the railway king of the future.

Now, All Together.

News items tell us the cabinet has already started to work. That's good. Now let the cabinet pitch in and follow their example.

Expert Opinion.

If Mrs. Cera Weed of Iowa, who wishes to be a consul, is as handsome as her picture makes her out to be she should be persona grata anywhere.

No Modification Needed.

"Transmississippi is a long word, even for an expositor. Call the Omaha people for an exposition. Call the Omaha people shorten the name a little or put in a hyphen for a resting place."

The Story in the Title.

The title of the new tariff bill is "An act to provide revenue for the government and to protect the industries of the United States." That tells the whole story.

A Colorado Hint.

The supreme court of Missouri has held that women are citizens of the state from which they are not debarred by the statute. This is an easy way out of a very easy difficulty. It saves election costs, campaign schemes, and families and encouragement of drinking.

An Unsanitized Threat.

Advices from Constantinople say that the sultan is chafing under the inaction of the European powers. No wonder; he has been compelled to let up on the Armenian butchers, and they are Simon N. P. of Quebec, R. Wilson-Smith of Montreal, Robert J. Fleming of Toronto and Edward Alexander Colquhoun of Hamilton.

Quicken Currents of Trade.

That increase of nearly \$4,000,000 in the loan of the New York banks in the week just ended is an eloquent indication of growing business confidence. Enterprise is beginning to quicken all over the country. Mills are being struck, the better for it, markets are firm and the better for it, which everybody has been looking for four years appear to be in sight.

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SPEAKER REED.

Indianapolis Journal: The renunciation of Speaker Reed by acclamation and the refusal of the republicans to support a representative caucus, by a large majority, to appoint a committee to change the rules of the house with a view to greater liberality indicates that the sense of members prevailed and that the majority believe in the safeguards which the present rules afford.

Washington Star: There is cause for congratulation in the fact that as the two offices, the presidency and the speakership are of such transcendent weight in our scheme of government they should be filled by the most eminent men of the nation who understand and esteem each other, and who therefore may be expected to work together harmoniously for the general welfare. To be three times elected speaker of the house is indeed a great honor, and to deserve the honor adds to the felicity of the occasion.

Globe-Democrat: The speakership is the most honorable and influential office in dignity and power, and that post never had an abler or worthier incumbent than the man who today will be chosen to it for the third time. Clay, Whistler, Elihu, Carlisle and other men who have held the office have been among the greatest statesmen of their day, and Thomas B. Reed is the most of them all. He has given the speakership better rank and greater prestige than it hitherto possessed, and has imparted to it a new attractiveness for statesmen of commanding ability and influence.

Philadelphia Press: Mr. Reed is so great a debater that no one who admires superb parliamentary fence can fail to miss him from the floor and to regret sometimes that he is not a member of the house. He is so much more powerful and useful as the speaker of the house than as a member of the house that he is not only held in the respect of the house but in the respect of the nation. He is not only held in the respect of the house but in the respect of the nation. He is not only held in the respect of the house but in the respect of the nation.

THE CALAMITY HOWL.

Some Evidence Showing How Slowly it Is.

Philadelphia Times. Every period of depression in business is seized upon by demagogues and agitators to create popular discontent by painting things blacker than they are. The truth is not learned until the hard times have passed and the actual statistics covering the period of depression have been collected and published.

THE MASSACHUSETTS BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

The Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor has just published a quarterly bulletin showing the condition of the savings banks of the state during the last five years. Beginning October 31, 1899, with total assets of \$27,476,265, they rose to \$39,265,926 in 1891, to \$415,898,159 in 1892, to \$424,579,325 in 1893, to \$442,291,267 in 1894 and to \$466,426,722 in 1895. In every year there was an increase, which applied not only to the total assets, but to the number of open accounts as well. This number rising from 1,682,817 in 1890 to 1,202,473 in 1895. Put in another way, there had 484 open accounts to every 1,000 of population in 1890 and 529 to every 1,000 in 1895.

It cannot be said that these figures indicate the prosperity of the well-to-do instead of the working classes, as the average deposit was only slightly above \$300 and the number of depositors was so large that it must have included the great body of wage-earners in the state. Neither can it be truthfully said that Massachusetts was more prosperous during the eight years than other sections, because its manufacturing industries are its main reliance, and these shared with the manufacturing interests of all sections in the general depression of 1894.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Frederick Salomon, who died the other day in Salt Lake City at the age of 71 years, was a native of Germany, served through the civil war and was made surveyor general of Utah by President Grant.

According to a London cablegram the original manuscript of Keats' "Endymion" has just been sold for \$3,475, which is without doubt much more than Keats ever received for his entire poetical works.

Colonel John S. Mosby, the Confederate cavalry leader, is a tall, well-preserved man, with smooth-shaven face and a pair of penetrating dark eyes. He has been a resident of the Pacific coast for some time, and is now well advanced in years.

It is supposed by some that the trousers and petticoat of the modern Greek soldier are Asiatic, borrowed from the Turks, but this is not necessarily true. Breeches, or rather pantaloons, something very like the modern Greek, were worn in France twenty centuries ago.

A Brooklyn preacher of the Congregational persuasion proposes to have a round or two with St. Patrick today and prove that he was not an Irishman. The talk is an easy one. As a revival of ancient history it ought to be as diverting as Dr. Abbott's reminiscence of Jonah and the whale.

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AN EPIDEMIC OF STATUTES.

Bucolic Legislation of Various Brands and Hues. Chicago Chronicle. The millennium will not come any sooner through the efforts of the bucolic legislatures of the United States. The law-makers of the various states are every day enacting laws which are every day wrong unless regulated by statute.

The prevailing epidemic of statute-making in the various state legislatures has reached an acute stage and will doubtless be productive of lasting harm. Not that there is much fear of any curtailment of personal liberty, but the real danger lies in weighing down the statute books with dead letter laws and thus creating contempt for all law.

The Kansas legislator who proposes to enforce ten commandments by law is not more grotesque or ignorant than the legislator in the same state who proposes that no woman within the borders of the commonwealth shall wear a corset without paying a heavy fine. An Indiana legislator has drafted a bill levying a tax on the wearing of beards, presumably in the interest of barbarism.

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