

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS.

The introduction in the house of representatives of a bill appropriating \$50,000,000 to be used at the discretion of the president for national defense, the passage of the house, without division, of the bill providing for two additional regiments of artillery and the expressions by members of congress of all parties to stand behind the president, show that at Washington there is serious apprehension of war and that there is no longer any disposition to conceal the fact. The policy that has been pursued of avoiding, as far as possible, expressions of opinion that might embarrass diplomatic plans and excite the public mind has been abandoned and the acknowledgment is made that there is a real danger of war. The introduction of the bill in the house followed a conference between the president and members of both branches of congress and the inference is that the president was able to show that the gravity of the situation justifies the proposed appropriation, which it is expected congress will make at once.

Probably the money to be thus appropriated will be used chiefly in the purchase of war vessels, if any can be found for sale. There have been reports of Spain buying war ships in Europe, but they have been denied and according to the latest advices there are none to be had there, but it is more than likely that our government has informed itself in this respect and knows where it can buy ships available for immediate service. It is safe to say that very soon after congress shall appropriate the money the country will learn of the purchase of our navy by the purchase of war ships abroad.

This preparation will be approved by the country. It does not necessarily mean war. Its effect may be to avert war. But at all events it is the imperative duty of the government to get ready and with all practicable haste for the possible exigency. Spain is making warlike preparations and with this fact before it our government would be criminally derelict if it did not also prepare to believe that the administration contemplates any radical change of policy for the national defense. There is no objection that the president has in view any action that might provoke war. Certainly there can be no reasonable doubt that he desires peace if it can be honorably maintained. But the danger of war is clearly defined and the country must be ready.

CONVEYING URBAN SUPPLIES.

The objection of the Spanish government to the conveyance of supplies to the Cuban sufferers in naval vessels may be justifiable, but it would have been courteous to this government and also a tacit admission of confidence in the friendly intentions of the United States to have said nothing about it. What propriety there is in sending relief supplies in vessels of the navy, when such vessels may freely visit any Cuban port, it is not easy to see. This government might have chartered merchant vessels to convey the supplies, but that would be a wasteful expenditure when it has ships of its own available for the service.

WILL STAND BY LEE.

The report that the Spanish government had requested the recall of Consul General Lee is confirmed from Washington. It appears that the request was received by this government, through the American minister at Madrid, last Saturday and that the president, after a conference with the secretary of the navy and the assistant secretary of state, decided not to comply with it. This information having been officially imparted to the Associated Press there can be no doubt about its accuracy, notwithstanding the fact that simultaneously with its announcement a press dispatch from Madrid stated there had been no demand for the recall of Lee and no official communication against him.

NEW MINING METHODS.

Mining science has not yet attained perfection. There is strong contrast between the methods in use now for getting precious metals out of nature's hiding places and those in use a half century or more ago. Though the modern miner is reasonably sure of getting all the valuable ore or free metal out of the rocks or gravel that he handles, improvements are being made from year to year and others are in demand. When it was discovered that metals could be separated from the ore-bearing rocks by the use of chemicals an important advance was made. Great heaps of refuse are being worked over again by new processes with profit, showing what waste there was in the methods of but a few years ago. Now the announcement that Edison has perfected a system of extracting gold from dry placers causes no surprise; yet, if true, his invention will revolutionize gold mining. The nature of his process is still a secret, but it is supposed to rest on the use of electricity. Such is the confidence of the people in the genius of the wizard of Menlo Park that everyone is ready to believe him able to make possible what has been considered impossible. According to the report, a company has been formed to make use of his invention, and a vast tract of land in New Mexico has been purchased, on which there are millions of tons of gravel containing gold hitherto out of the reach of man because of the absence of water. It is announced that if Mr. Edison's invention does what is claimed for it by him the company will pay him \$1,500,000 for its use on this great New Mexican placer.

Samuel J. Tilden's Foresight.

At the present time when the preparation of the country for offensive and defensive warfare is uppermost in the minds of the public it is worth while for the American people to reflect that what preparation we have is chiefly due to the foresight of one of America's most talented and most mis-treated statesmen, Samuel J. Tilden. Under his leadership in 1855, he wrote to Mr. Carlisle, the prospective speaker of the house of representatives, his letter on the necessity of greater attention to our sea coast defenses which started the country from indifference on this subject and brought about the work that has since been accomplished in this line.

GENERATION WILL BE ABLE TO PERFECT MINING METHODS.

It is probable that in the next century ways will be found for getting at gold now even more securely hid than in the dry placers of the southwest.

INTEREST IN THE EXPOSITION.

California. Los Angeles intends to maintain a display at the Transmississippi Exposition soon to be held at Omaha and is crowing over the fact that it is the only California city that will be represented there. That's all right, the people will come out here to look over the state, will see Oakland, compare it with Los Angeles, and then decide to settle here.

Colorado.

Denver Times. That Denver excursion to Omaha has even this early shown beneficial results. There was a fight on Sixteenth street last night because one of the excursionists did not agree with the views of a bystander. The latter asserted that there are two Missouri rivers, and that the better one is the subject of the bridge enroute to Council Bluffs. No compromise was effected, but it is encouraging to know that the excursionists did not see double while in the city. But this is an incidental atom to the great volume of good accomplished as a result of the trip. People are talking, writing and singing expositions, and while the better one is the subject has not mentioned except in a doubtful, preliminary manner. Omaha will do her duty, as she always does, and it remains for Colorado to do the rest.

Illinois.

Washington Dispatch to Chicago Tribune. "One of the features of the Omaha exposition will be the government exhibit," said Representative Mercer of Nebraska, "and it is likely that it will surpass anything of the sort ever before attempted. We will take advantage of the experience and lessons taught by previous expositions and improve them in places where they were found weak. Every department of the government will be represented with fidelity and care, and the workings in order that the people may be given a practical object lesson in the machinery of government at Washington. Suggestions of all sorts are pouring in upon the members of the executive committee, and the indications are that, while the Omaha exhibit will not be as large as some of its predecessors, it will be well-nigh perfect in all its details."

Insulting Popular Intelligence.

It requires considerable nerve on the part of the Rosewater organ to make any criticism of Omaha's police force. Its assaults upon Chief Gallagher are inspired by the fact that Rosewater discovered long ago that he could not use Mr. Gallagher, and by the further fact that Mr. Gallagher is entirely indifferent to Rosewater's existence. Mr. Gallagher has demonstrated that no mistake was made when he was chosen chief of police. He has brought authority of a high order and businesslike methods into the chief's office, and so far as are concerned the men under his control he has stamped out the dissensions and turmoils that so seriously interfered with police efficiency—World-Herald.

When the Declaration that President McKinley Had Granted Ninety-seven Pardons During the First Ten Months as President was Overtaken by the Information that in the Corresponding Period of the Last Democratic Administration President Cleveland Granted 220 Pardons, the First Named Item Disappeared Suddenly from the Columns of the Democratic Newspapers.

The local liquor dealers' association is rightly protesting against the drug-store saloons. There is certainly no reason why a man should be allowed to do a saloon business on a \$10 druggist's permit when liquor dealers are required to invest in a \$1,000 license. The drug-store saloon should be snuffed out.

The Country is Safe.

A brass band has been organized in Wellington, Kan., to go to Cuba with the regular troops from that state. If the Spaniards hear about that there will be no war.

New York's Big Gun.

Acting upon the principle that this is the time to recall the biggest guns, New York has named Chauncey M. Depew at the head of its state delegation to the Omaha exposition.

Yankee Tricks Outdone.

Talk about "Yankee" shrewdness. The English textile manufacturers "adulterate" their cotton shewing with zinc, and their false dyeing is done with arsenic oil, to make them heavy. This is meant that wooden nutmegs, which don't hurt anything but the feelings of the buyer.

Suppressing the Hot Heads.

It is a mistake to refer to the present agitation as a war scare. On the contrary it is merely the united efforts of the people to suppress the hot heads and thereby declare that they will not be driven into a scare of any kind. The pulse of the American people may be a trifle accentuated by this effort, but it awaits in otherwise calm confidence the decision of the president. If a genuine war scare should come it will be the other fellow who will be scared.

Dispute Should Be Settled at Once.

The Omaha Bee urges the government to take steps at once to determine the true boundary between Canada and Alaska. It is one of the very few newspapers to see that the work is not being done promptly. If there is a dispute, vested interests of more or less value are likely to grow, and there will be difficulties in the matter of customs unless the work is undertaken promptly. A geographical line would be the best for temporary purposes, until the survey can be made absolute.

PHASES OF THE SPANISH CRISIS.

Globe Democrat: Even if Spain could buy several battleships she would lack safe coaling facilities on this side of the ocean. Black diamonds will deserve their name in naval operations.

Business Confidence.

No better evidence of the hard common sense of the American people and of their ability to draw satisfactory conclusions from vague premises presented by multiplied means of communication and publicity is needed than that contained in the steadiness which has marked the business activity of the country since the rumors of war with Spain became widespread.

Philadelphia Record.

Send war vessels to Cuba loaded with provisions for the starving, is not the usual gunpowder way of making war; but it is a more humane, less expensive and wonderfully efficient Spanish animosity must be somewhat disarmed by a bombardment of bread instead of bullets, even if Spanish pride be hurt.

Des Moines Capital.

It is a far cry when Iowa must look to Arkansas for an example, but Arkansas has worthy enterprise and will have a state building and a horticultural exhibit of no mean proportions at the Omaha exposition.

South Dakota.

Let Yankton and Yankton county do their share toward assisting in the good work of getting up a South Dakota exhibit at the Omaha Transmississippi Exposition. Yankton county has a great deal to contribute to the fair. It will take hold of the matter in earnest. Many millions of people will visit Omaha this year and a fair proportion of them will be from the northwestern part of the country. A hundred thousand or more will visit South Dakota if South Dakota is properly advertised at the fair, and of these 100,000 Yankton is prepared to entertain 10,000. Our state fair will be held while the Omaha fair is open and an immense number of Omaha sojourners can be brought here at the time. There is everything to expect in the way of reward for well directed effort in behalf of a South Dakota exhibit. Let the Yankton city council and county commissioners place the cement district of the state in condition to display its resources.

Washington, Spokane Review.

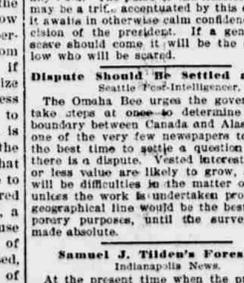
A representative of the Department of Publicity and Promotion of the Omaha exposition is in the state for the purpose of attracting attention to the great western Washington exhibit. He is the only western state not represented by fair commission. He is anxious to have one appointed.

Tacoma Ledger.

It is time the people of this city and of the state were making steps toward making a creditable display of our resources at the Transmississippi Exposition to be held in Omaha from June 1 to November 1. The exhibit of this state at the Chicago exposition attracted the attention of people from all parts of the globe, for it contained novel features, and showed varied resources hardly to be found anywhere in one commonwealth. An equally good showing should be made at Omaha; it can be done at much less expense and will no doubt give practical returns. There is but little time left, and the work should be commenced at once.

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PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

England in China and the United States at home have demonstrated that a war scare is good for the coal trade.

Washington Star.

"Oh, the high road to Hasbreen's a curious way—Down hill when you first strike the track; But it's mighty hard pulling, the knowing ones say. Through bringing your bicycle back. Newcomers are striving the places to fill. Of the many who lashed must: room—Like Wylie, and Lome."

BACK IN '61.

This talk of war we're havin' now reminds me of the fun I had in '61. Some of us thought that war would be back there in '61. The words were full of fellows then who hollered away and right. And tried to make the folks believe they fairly ached to fight. But when good Abraham sent out his call for men '61, they were shocked before were mighty quiet then.

Now, there was Ebenezer Webb, who lived in our town.

I tell you he knew how to put the worst rebellion down. For months and months before the time to shoulder muskets came. He fairly howled for war and swore his soul was all aflame. But when that dismal day arrived that men were called to go "The folks were shocked to hear that Eb had lost his little toe.

My cousin Cyrus, too, was fierce before the war began.

He tipped and tore and carried on just like a crazy man; He'd hang around the grocery store and tell you he was a hero. If he was in Abe Lincoln's place—and folks believed him, too. And when the things he said, until the time for fightin' came—Then, by the great Jerusha, Cy pretended he the veterans of Grant and Sheridan in their devotion to the American nation and its flag."

Efforts are being made in congress to secure a pension of \$30 a month for "Little Jimmie" Rawlins, whose father was the late Major General John A. Rawlins.

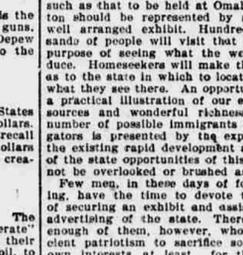
At the age of 15 months he became subject to epilepsy, which permanently disabled him mentally and physically. He is without property or income of any kind and has no relatives able to care for him.

How many things both just and unjust are sanctioned by custom?—Terence.

Fashion ever was a fickle jade. We never know a certainty just where she is "at."

But if any one does not know what is what in men's wear, we flatter ourselves that we know.

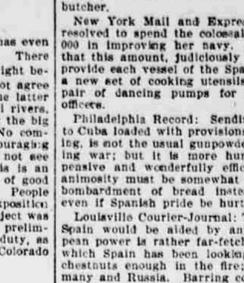
The fashion among well dressed men this spring, for example, is for the finely tailored suits of Browning, King & Co. They are quite up to the requirements as to style—they are guaranteed to fit and they cost less than the custom tailor charges for anything like the same quality of goods.



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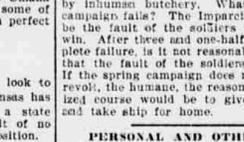
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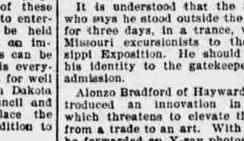
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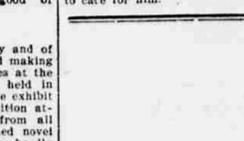
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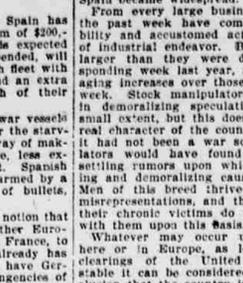
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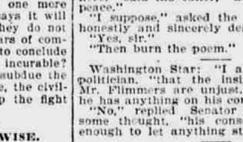
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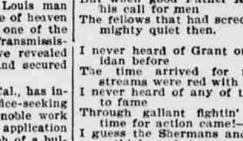
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