

# McCook Weekly Tribune.

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## BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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## WASHINGTON LETTER.

Washington, D. C., July 13, '84.  
The closing hours of the First Session of the 48th Congress, were not materially unlike those that have characterized all of its predecessors. As usual, the most important legislation was left to the lurly burly moments of approaching dissolution, and rushed through only after a most unreasonably brief consideration by conference committees. Nevertheless the session has given us some few beneficent measures, and none that are positively vicious. The unanimous vote of thanks to the presiding officers of both houses, and particularly to Speaker Carlisle, were never more deserved. Mr. Carlisle leaves his chair with a record for impartiality and faithfulness to duty that has not been excelled in the long line of Speakerships.

The sixty millions of people in this country who have for so many years been worried out of sweet repose lest some fourth-rate frigate from some fifth-rate country should come in the night and lay waste the cities on our eastern and western coasts, can now hull themselves into complete security. Half a million of dollars has been appropriated by Congress to be expended in providing ordnance for the steel cruisers that are now being constructed by the Government, and these guns are to be of sufficient size calibre and power to knock into smithereens anything that is reckless enough to get within range. To be sure our naval constructors and our engineers and other experts, native and foreign, have all pronounced these cruisers as conspicuous failures as they are prodigious frauds, but what does all that amount to beside the opinions of Secretary Billy Chandler and his superior officer John Roach? It will not be until some of these cruisers blow themselves under water in an attempt to blow something else out of water, that the Government will see fit to imitate the example which even the Chilean government has set.

It is perhaps better late than never, but who that has seen the plan of the monument to be erected to the memory of the mother of Washington, would rather say never? Why Congress should submit the devising of this kind of architecture to the taste of a board of engineers, who have no more conception of such work than the merest laymen, is beyond comprehension. Here is an appropriation of \$25,000, in addition to what has already been expended, to complete this masterpiece of architectural folly. There is nothing appropriate about it from base to apex, and is altogether about as incongruous a piece of work as could possibly be devised. To cap the climax of the absurdities surrounding this particular appropriation, there is a neat little steal of \$6,000, in requital for the trespassing upon somebody's land in order to reach the spot where the monument is situated! However, the whole business is only on a par with the Mt. Vernon monopoly, by which the American people are kindly permitted to give vent to their lamentations at the tomb of the Father of his Country, after depositing in the coffers of the captain of a one-horse steamboat the small price of \$1 per lament.

One by one the cases of grand larceny in which the Government is always the victim, are being unearthed, not by any system that the Government maintains for the detection of crime, but from the lack of confidence that the thieves have in each other. Here are bills made out against the Government amounting up into thousands of dollars, sustained by vouchers and approved by Government officials, for which the Government had never received the consideration of a single penny. One fellow of the name of Dempsey, who keeps a stationery store on Pennsylvania avenue, has been furnishing imaginary telescopes, kaleidoscopes and

numerous other scopes, for which he has received some \$5,000 or \$6,000, without even having delivered an article! The law officers have gone into the business of indicting these thieves, but nobody supposes that any of them will be convicted, from the fact that Washington jurymen as a rule are in the same boat.

The sudden absence of Congress with its lobby has left Washington in a state of lonesomeness. The Riggs, the Arlington, the Ebbitt and Willards suffer the most by these Congressional exoduses, because the houses must be kept up during the summer at a necessarily heavy expense. However, the landlords manage somehow or other to make both ends meet at the close of the fiscal year, and have something left over for a boom at the opening in December.

DOM PEDRO.

THE Chicago Times is satisfied with the democratic nominations, but refuses to praise the platform. According to the Times the great effort of the architects seems to have been to embody in it the ideas and whims of pretty much everybody except General Butler, and even his notions are by no means wholly excluded. The object, presumably, was to please everybody. There may, however, have been another object—to drown the ideas, such as they are, in an ocean of words, to the end that the entire document may be lost sight of before the contest fairly begins, and that the campaign may be conducted upon a few cries and catch-phrases, each adapted to its own locality.

AND now cometh into full view, clear down to the front, the large small man who carrieth his entire ward in his vest pocket and owneth part of a country township, and setteth things up and layeth things down, and is mysterious and confidential, and maketh secret calculations and estimates in dingy note books, and increaseth in girth until the day after election, when it transpires that his favorite candidate received about eleven votes where the rest of the ticket got about 7,000, and the shrinkage of that man is even as a sun dried boot after a fishing excursion. Weep not for him. He will be just as large, just as mysterious, and just as important during the next campaign.—Burlington Hawkeye.

THE Colorado cowboy has ruled the roost for a long time and has had the inhabitants under pretty good control, greatly to his own satisfaction if not advantage. But he has met a new terror bigger than he is. The through cattle trail from Texas now goes by Wallace, Kas., where the Colorado boys round up, and within four days three of them were fatally plugged by gentlemen from Texas on their way northward with their flocks. None of the Texas gentlemen have been scratched yet, and unless the Colorado boys rally the good name of their guild is gone.

THE county of Sioux has been temporarily organized with Ft. Robinson as the county seat. B. G. Coffee, Willard Potts and Frank Gaffey are the commissioners, and F. B. Carley is the clerk. Sioux county is being rapidly settled up and is rich in cattle.

CHINESE laborers are in demand in Mexico. The Mexican government has agreed to give a bonus of \$50 per head for imported Chinese. Here is a good opportunity for California to assist her Chinamen into Mexico at a handsome profit.

IN these hot, weary days while the politician and candidate rushes about and wildly mops his brow, Rutherford sits calmly on the rail fence and watches the speckled hen to find out where she is laying.—Boston Post.

WHEN Greek meets Greek then comes the tug of war. Revised version: When Dutch meets Dutch then flows the lager beer.

At the Chicago driving park last Thursday, there was a special trial for Westmont, the pacer, with Firebrand as running mate to wagon. As Campbell drove the remarkable pair out on the track, it looked as though they meant to show speed, and as they came down the stretch for the word, everyone watched the flying horses. After they passed the turn by the club house, the entire crowd was aware that remarkable time was being made. The quarter pole was reached in 30½ seconds. The pacer kept his gait steadily and passed the half mile in one minute; the ¼ pole was passed faster than ever before, in 1:30, and still the gait seemed to increase in swiftness. The crowd began to cheer, and just as the team came to the distance stand, Westmont broke, coming in under the wire in 2:01½ the fastest recorded time. Had the crowd repressed its exultation for a second, the time no doubt, would have been less than 2 minutes. Attendance ten thousand. Westmont was purchased to-night by J. M. Hill, the theatrical manager; price \$20,000.

THE completion of the Kenesaw branch of the B. & M., on July 4, will reduce time and distance between Omaha and Denver one hour or about thirty miles. The road branches off from the Kearney line at Kenesaw, in Adams county, and runs southwest through Kearney and Harlan counties to Oxford, where it joins the main Republican valley line. The road was opened for business this week. It will be the main line from Lincoln west instead of the present route by way of Red Cloud. The road passes through a fine farming country already well settled, and capable of supporting a large population. There are several thriving towns on the road and considerable local business will be obtained from the start.

SOME Vassar girls made a sponge cake and sent it without a label to an agricultural fair. They got a notice from the judges sometime afterwards that their sample of concrete had been received and that the city would like an estimate as to the cost of block pavement of that kind, it being the most desirable of any presented, and just the thing for streets where the travel is heavy.—Hartford Telegram.

SOME unsophisticated thief in a fit of mental aberration thoughtlessly interviewed a Des Moines editor's clothing, and after a most thorough search found therein the munificent sum of 60 cents. Such ignorance is inexcusable—the thief deserves being quartered and his body scattered to the four winds of heaven.

SOME enthusiastic admirer of Irving, the actor, said his left leg was a poem. In order that budding and blushing western physical talent may be appreciated at its full and true worth in these days of metrical simile, we unhesitatingly declare Van Wyck's legs to be a popular and catchy comic opera.—Topics.

KATE FIELD, the well known writer, is engaged in gathering information upon the origin, growth and present status of Mormonism, and will write a book. And we imagine Kate will give those uxorious elders a benefit. Who knows but that Kate Field may be the Harriet Beecher Stowe of Mormonism.

THE "tariff for revenue only" plank of the democratic platform has a label over it which reads "federal taxation for public purposes exclusively;" but the new labels are not large enough, and the legerdemain in words is a dead give away. The ostrich has stuck his head in the sand again.

THE young ladies who have been receiving their diplomas during the past week may now begin post-graduate courses at the wash-tub and the kitchen range.—Baltimore American.

IT is suggested that in the social circles of the chicken-yard the lines are very distinctly drawn—each hen having her own set.

IT is to be called the kangaroo ticket, because its hind-legs are longer than its fore-legs.

FORTY THOUSAND out of the 60,000 tax-payers in Toulon have left the city.

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