

LOUP CITY NORTHWESTERN.

State Historical Society

VOL. XIV.

LOUP CITY, SHERMAN COUNTY, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1896.

NUMBER 7

THE NORTHWESTERN

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT THE COUNTY SEAT. GEO. E. BENSCHOTER, Editor and Publisher.

TERMS—\$1.50 per Year, if Paid in Advance

Entered at the Loup City Postoffice for transmission through the mails as second-class matter.

The First Territorial Legislature 1855.

It will be a matter of general interest to the people of the state that the next annual meeting of the State Historical Society, occurring next January, will be devoted to reminiscences of the first Territorial Legislature of Nebraska. It is very desirable not only to have all surviving members present at that meeting, but to collect in the meantime all possible data with reference to all the members and the acts of that body. It will be a great help, if those who can, will send to the Society photos and pictures of the members, and any papers, letters, manuscripts or books relating to them. Some members are living in other states, and it may possibly take sometime to find them. Information relating to such will be thankfully received.

The following is a list of the members and officers, as they were then apportioned:

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Communications may be addressed to the Librarian of the State Historical Society.

JAY AMOS BARRETT, Lincoln, Neb., April 11th, '96. State University Library Building.

The question as to the advantage arising from the use of wide tires, say four inches in width, as compared with that of the use of the ordinary wagon tires has two principal phases. One of these favorable considerations is the comparative ease with which the load is drawn; the other is the marked improvement in the condition of the road bed resulting from the use of wide tires which in its turn not only favors the ease with which loads are drawn but also works an economy in the care of the roads of a country. When the roads are at all inclined to be wet the narrow tire quickly cuts it full of ruts which adds fearfully to the draft upon the team, and in the cold season is the cause of much wear and tear from bumping over the frozen and uneven surface of the earth. Then when the road dries off again these ruts must be gradually ground down again to a common level. This grinding down process is the cause of adding somewhat to every load that passes that way, and at the same time it leaves a bed of dust in the road that is easily transformed into mud with each succeeding rain. None of these disagreeable things

happen with the use of the wide tire. It makes a smooth road bed, one in which the horse has an easy footing and over which loads pass with comparatively little friction which should be the great consideration in the moving of loads over our country roads. It is said that a bill for an act involving the wide tire system for Iowa roads is now pending in the legislature of that state. The interest in this matter is gradually spreading and we believe with good cause.—Ex.

Shepherd Dogs.

In an Iowa convention, Mr Cowie spoke as follows on shepherd dogs:

"It would be utterly impossible to raise sheep in Scotland without dogs. One dog there is worth fifty men in taking care of sheep. It would be absolutely impossible to take sheep away up into the mountains and tramp them for twenty miles as they do without two or three dogs. A shepherd there will take care of a thousand to three thousand sheep. He will go at the head a whole day, walking along and he will have a dog behind him and perhaps one at each side and they will keep their places and when the sheep come home at night they are yarded down at the foot of the mountain or in some valley. As they go into the yard the shepherd counts them and it is surprising how fast a man when he has had experience will do that.

He will count those sheep going into the gateway, and count them ten, twenty, forty, sixty. Many a time there will be two or three sheep missing, and the dog is told to go and get those sheep and he has to go. It may be sunrise next morning, but he doesn't come back until he brings the sheep with him. But it is entirely different here. The sheep are kept in fields and there is probably not the necessity for dogs that there is there. There it would be an impossibility without dogs. No man can go over those mountains and into those recesses as a dog will do and search for them as he will do; and where there are, as in Scotland, mountains where different shepherds have their flocks of sheep, they sometimes meet and get mixed and the flocks will get together, and no man can separate them. The dogs invariably do that. I have seen at a fair held at the town where I was born where there were over twenty thousand sheep for sale, all kept in small pens, probably one or two or five hundred, where they were to be sold. A storm came up and blew down the fence, or gates as they were called. They were made like the gates dove-tailed together as you see fences along the railroad, and removed after the fair. A heavy storm blew down all those fences and the sheep became mixed. Those shepherds would have been utterly powerless to separate the sheep without the dogs. Each shepherd—and there were probably fifty or a hundred of them, that had come from all parts of the mountains with their sheep to be sold at the fair—each one took his place and called his dogs, and the dogs went into the great flock, picking out the sheep in bunches of ten, twenty and thirty, and brought them out, and the moment they came out they were told to go back and bring out more sheep, and those dogs worked there for hours on a cold November day, with their tongues rolling out as if it were in July, to get those sheep, and there was never a shepherd among them. Over there if you talk to a shepherd and tell him that he could get along without a dog he would think you didn't know anything about the sheep business.

There were two circumstances resulting from the holding of the republican county convention last Saturday which is conclusive evidence that the country will be saved. One is that a McKinley delegation was elected to the state convention and the other is that it was immediately followed by a 36 hours rain with a precipitation of 4 inches of water.

Hon J. E. Lamaster of Tecumseh gives the following interesting explanation of the rise of water in Nebraska wells:

"A friend of mine emigrated from Otoe county to Montana in the early settlement of that territory, and took up a ranch in Smith River valley, about seventy-five miles east of Helena. The valley, which is enclosed by the Belt mountains, is from six to ten miles wide and thirty miles long. The soil is light and loamy, much like that of southern Nebraska. Smith river is a rapid mountain stream about as wide as the Blue at Fairbury, but carrying I should think about four times as much water. It has a course through the valley of about fifty miles. My friend's home ranch is at the lower end of the valley, near where the river enters an impassable canyon. On the opening of lands to settlement under the desert land act, he took up a large tract at the other end of the valley where the river issues from the mountains, having what is called first water and first right. When I was there in 1883 but little water was used and the river ran a full, strong stream through all its course. Since then other lands have been brought under irrigation, so that now those within four or five miles of the head of the valley require more water than comes from the mountains. My friend informs me that the first year or two the water was taken out of the stream was greatly reduced below; then it began to increase and now at his home ranch the volume of water through the pear is greater and more regular than ever before.

"Does not this in some degree furnish an explanation of the well known fact that water is rising towards the surface and the streams are swelling over a large portion of eastern and southern Nebraska? An immense area of land has been brought under irrigation in western Nebraska during the last three years, and in that time the water has sunk deeper and the streams failed in the eastern and southern part of the state more than ever before. The water has been taken from the Platte and its tributaries and spread out over the loose, fresh-flooded soil. It has disappeared mainly by percolation, and is now reappearing on the lower lands nearer the Missouri. The Platte is a great river, running down through Nebraska on the top of a ridge, the country sloping from it on both sides. Nature's great head ditch for the irrigation of a vast country. Its waters spread over the land in its upper course and produce a wealth of vegetation. By the slow but steady process of seepage they reappear to multiply the harvests and revive the streams of the eastern and southern portions of our state."—State Journal.

We have always advised that farmers put forth an intelligent effort at growing potatoes. It is always a good policy to plant freely when seed is cheap, and then take good care of the crop. If anything happens to the crop in a general way it is sure to be a paying one to the farmer who has been at some pains to care for his own crop. In case of a general crop and prices low he feed out crop to very good advantage to his cows and pigs. It is a good thing for the land to raise a crop or two of potatoes. It becomes pretty thoroughly cleaned of noxious weeds and it is left in mellow condition. The farmer can follow the crop with eye or some other forage crop, and thus lose no time with having the ground unoccupied. There is nothing lost to the farmer through a practical study of the matter of profitable rotation of crops even in this small way, as it tends to add variety to home grown supply of stock foods which is always beneficial, as well as to give him a fallow and better control of his lands in forcing them to yield him crops to the extreme limit of their capacity.—Nebraska Farmer.



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