

**SOME POLITICAL HISTORY OF
SHERMAN COUNTY**

Continued from last week.

Mr. Kittell, Mr. R. D. Hendrickson, Mr. Rein, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Minshull and Mr. Badura have all made good records. But why have they? This week we will endeavor to answer this question.

First of all let it be understood that we regard them as honest and trusted men, men of good ability and judgement, men who have, aided by the tax payers of this county, paid off some \$42,000. of the original \$169,000. bonded indebtedness of the county and for which they paid \$4,500 premium. But then it must be remembered that these officials had, at least twice yes, three times the resources from which to obtain fund with which to do business.

As a positive proof of this statement we sight the public to the following enormous amounts collected from year to year from the R. R. and Telegraph companies in Sherman county, nearly all of which have been collected since the pops has got into power.

Tax of R. R. and Telegraph Cos. in Sherman County Since 1888.

Year.	Amount
1888.....	\$ 5,786.02
1889-'90-'91 and '92.....	38,268.08
1893.....	12,500.39
1894.....	9,618.73
1895.....	10,738.90
1896.....	11,176.02
1897.....	9,955.15
1898.....	10,087.56
1899.....	10,345.08
1900.....	9,942.00
Total.....	\$124,681.00

The above figures are absolutely correct as taken from the tax records, except the years '89 '90 '91 and '92. The amounts for these year were obtained by multiplying by 4 the amount received in 1894 next to the smallest amount on the list. Now after deducting the \$46,700 paid for bonds and premiums we still have a balance derived from this source of \$77,981.01.

The largest amount of interest paid on bonds against the county at any time was \$8,645. per annum and this amount was paid for five years, or up to 1893, making a total of interest paid for these five years on all her bonded indebtedness of \$43,225. Since 1893, however, the amount of interest on bonds has been gradually reduced, until now it is only \$6,125.50 per annum. The interest on bonds for the last eight years have been paid at an average rate of \$7,385. per annum, or a total amount for the eight years of \$59,080, thus making a grand total of interest paid on all bonded indebtedness of the county since 1888, and since the collection of taxes on R. R. property of \$102,365.00. Now deduct from this amount the amount of surplus derived from R. R. tax after paying the bonds, \$77,918.01 and you will see that besides paying these bonds we only lack \$24,386.99 of keeping up the entire bonded interest of the county during all these years from R. R. taxation alone.

Now we do not intend to convey the idea that this money was collected and used especially to pay off the bonds. It helped to swell the different county, township, school and road district funds, and from some of the county funds transfers are made to meet such obligations.

Now is it possible for our readers to see why it is that our county officers have been able to take up a few bonds. The Times-Independent is continually harping upon this bond business. It speaks of the wonderful redemption of bonds but it leaves its readers blindfolded as to facts and figures. It studiously avoids showing up the conditions whereby just such a transaction might easily be accomplished.

From our point of view it would

seem that they should have taken up even more than they have, when we consider that not one cent of the enormous property tax of the county for all these many years is not taken into account in these figures.

The property tax of the county, both real and personal, amount to many times more than the R. R. tax, and as we stated last week, more than twice what it did when the so called republicans were in power.

What is done with all this property tax? Is it possible that it takes it all to run the county? We have shown that the amount derived from R. R. taxation has been sufficient to pay off all the bonds thus far taken up, and to almost keep up the interest on the entire bonded indebtedness.

We only know of a comparatively small amount of these vast collections going wrong, although there may have been more. We allude to the \$5,000.00. which went down under Polski, the pop reform treasurer, and to the McAlpine bridge deal. We intended to only speak of these matters briefly, but as Brother Brown in his last issue wished us to "tell the rotten part to" we will do so.

It was at the beginning of Mr. Polski's second term that he was warned not to place any more funds in the People's state bank at Litchfield. Settlement had just been made with the supervisors and Mr. Polski had been able to render a good account of his office. He had been able at that time to make settlement with the bank in question, and several members of the board of supervisors protested against any further deposits being made in said bank. In fact Arthur Minshull, at that time chairman of the board and J. W. Heapy another member, had been to Litchfield the very morning that the board convened and withdrew their individual deposits because they rightly judged the bank to be in an insolvent condition. Other members of the board, namely W. T. Gibson and E. A. Draper foresaw the danger and vigorously objected to any further deposits being made in the bank. But it has been said that both Mr. Polski and other members of the board considered themselves under obligations to the bank for campaign favors, and so let the money go. However that may be, one thing certain they did let it go, and it has gone to stay.

With it also went several hundred dollars of the county's good money in costs of suing the banker and his bondsmen, and only \$500. was recovered.

We do not want to criticize Mr. Polski too severely. It might have been poor judgement that caused him and his advisors on the board to place the money in this bank, but did he, like Mr. Pearson turn over his property, that the county might, in whole or in part, be reimbursed. Not a bit of it. Was the treasurer's doors locked against him. Not a bit of it. He was exonerated by the populist majority on that board of supervisors and allowed to continue business at the old stand. He has since built a \$2,500.00 residence in Ashton and is chief banker of that town and living in luxury.

As to the McAlpine bridge deal, it is hardly worth while to explain it. Everybody knows that the board of supervisors sunk over \$2,500.00 of the tax-payers hard earned money in establishing a road and building a bridge over the Middle Loop at that point. The move was made to defeat the efforts made to have a bridge built west of town. It was half of the time out of repair and very little used when it was in repair. It stood out in the middle of the river like a signal of distress, and when the projectors of the scheme to build it saw its utter worthlessness, they got ashamed of it and ordered it removed. Populist Representative Vandegrift was one of the prime movers in the affair.

It would seem that while these reformers? are continually charging the republican party with fraud and corruption, they should take into account that, in some instances, their own record is blacker than night.

But we have already made this article too long. We stand ready to answer any questions any one may wish to ask, and to show up figures and records which will bear us out in the statements herein made.

ROCKVILLE NEWS.

Will Catron of Hampton, arrived Wednesday evening. Mr. Catron spent several days among us canvassing.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Dwehus went to Dannebrog Thursday to spend Thanksgiving and wage war on the Turk with the assistance of friends. Reports claim that Emil came off victorious.

Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Fair of Sherwood, Kan., arrived Thursday noon to attend the Pearl wedding of Mr. Fair's brother, our genial post master, S. J. Fair.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans H. Hebnke lost their infant daughter Thursday morning, Nov. 28 1901. Typhoid fever was the cause of the departure of the little one.

H. J. Holmes of Grand Island, representing Allen Bros., of Omaha, was in our city Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Smelser of Ashton, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Hendrickson of Farwell, took in the Pearl wedding here Friday evening.

Dr. S. Howard of Ashton, was here Tuesday.

Mrs. Henry Lange left here for Grand Island on the Tuesday morning train.

Wm. Murr of Grand Island, was here Monday night rustling for orders for Weyth Hardware Co. of St. Joseph, Mo.

W. M. Smelser railed it to Loup City to attend Masonic lodge Tuesday evening.

PEARL WEDDING.

On Friday evening, Nov. 28, 1901, the children of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Fair, gave a surprise to their parents in honor of their Thirtieth wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Fair went to Farwell, the first part of the week to spend Thanksgiving, and upon their return home Friday evening, they found about 60 relatives and friends congregated to do honor to the occasion. The surprise was complete in every respect. At 9:00 p. m. the cry—supper!!—was greeted with many hearty appetites. A procession was formed in martial order and marched to the Woodmen Hall, where there was found plates laid for all and tables fairly groaning under their load of the many goodies prepared for the event. But, Oh! what a difference an hour later, as there was so much that one wished to taste, and the oysters, how they did wilt. After much feasting the party retired to Mr. and Mrs. Fair's home where entertainment was furnished for all. As the chimes tolled the hour of midnight the party departed, wishing their host and hostess many happy returns of the day.

Among the other amusements that created much merriment was the contest for the pencil artist championship, subjects, any person in the room. Many laughable pictures were the result. C. S. Winchell took first prize and W. F. McInturf got the "Booby" prize. Many elegant and useful presents were left to remind them of the happy occasion in years to come. Among them were: An elegant French plate bevel mirror from their children. A large cane rocking chair by Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Isaacson and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Nielsen, berry set by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Luks, pearl handled butter knife by D. L. Price, pearl handle butter spreader by Mr. and Mrs. H. Smelser, pearl handle butter spreader, by J. R. Stephenson, elegant broach set with pearls and a Masonic charm set with pearls, by Mr. and Mrs. James A. Dowden, Blair, Neb., Mr. and Mrs. J. Alsbaugh, Baxter, Mrs. N. A. Dowden, Platts-mouth, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Fair, Platts-mouth, Neb. Mr. and Mr. J. F. Dowden, Milford, Ia. Mr. and Mrs. Jas. A. Dowden, Superior, Ia., Chas. Kreager, Newton, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. Marion Dowden, Laurel, Ia. gold breast pin set with pearls by Mrs. Mary Treffer, pearl handle gold pen and pearl and gold Woodmen charm by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Treffer; china salad dish by Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Paige, center table scarf and briar wood pipe by Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Butts; china bread plate, Mrs. Austin Butts; easle and three elegant pictures, by Mr. and Mrs. W. F. McInturf, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Hiddelson Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Hanish, Mr. and Mrs. E. Dwehus; china tea set by Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Thompson, set pearl handle fruit knives by S. Howard.

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