THE RED CLOUD CHIEF.

THURSDAY MARCH 9, 1876

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Webster County Condensed.

Webster Co., Neb., lies in the Valley of the Republican, is 150 miles west of the Missouri River and touches the State line on the South. Winters are mild and dry; very little rain or snow falls in that season so little in fact that cattle live all winter with no hay or grain. Plenty of rain falls in the spring and summer. The summers are not disagreeably warm, as there is always a cool breeze especially in the evenings. The county first began to settle in 1870. In 1871 the county was organized with a population of 45. Its population is now between 2500 and 3000 and is rapidly increasing. There are at present 38 organised school districts within its boundries and school facilities are therefore ample—better than those in some Eastern States. The apportionable school fund furnishes nearly enough money to pay teachers' wages. Farmers can buy R. R. land from $1.50 to $6 per acre—with ten years time. There is yet a considerable amount of government lands for homesteads and preemptions. As a stock raising country it is hard to excel. Cattle do well, and for sheep it cannot be beaten. It is just suited to that. Fortunes can be easily made by raising sheep as the expense of feeding is very small. That corn, oats, barley, potatoes, buck wheat, and all kinds of roots and vegetables, are grown here with little labor. 35 bushels of sod corn to the acre is nothing new. Wheat averages about 25 bushels to the acre. Fruit does extremely well. Every farmer has his orchard growing. Forest trees grow rapidly. Cottonwood, boxalder, whitewood, soft maple, and many other kinds of trees grow into timber large enough for fuel in about three years. Osage orange plants do nicely, and in a few years your live fences can be made. Mechanics find employment and fair wages. The very best and purest water is obtained by going from 5 to 100 feet. The cost is very small when the well is bored.—These wells never go dry. The streams of this county are the Republican and its tributaries which are as follows: on the south side of the river, Walnut, Dry, Buffalo, State Penny, Cedar, Hicks, Ash, and Guide Rock creeks. On the north side are Willow, Elm, Cottonwood, Crooked, Indian, and Farmers creeks. In the north part of the county is the Blue river and its tributaries.

The soil of Webster county is a dark, rich vegetable loam. The wild grasses are nutritious and abundant, and make most excellent hay. Timothy, clover, Hungarian and millet will undoubtedly prove a profitable production. Those who have tried them so decide at least.

Our railroad prospects are good, and we will have a road as soon as we really need one. But the farmers for years will find ready sale for surplus productions in the newer counties west and to new settlers. By the time these markets are closed roads for cheaper transportation east will be opened.

Our climate is healthful, the air pure and bracing, and sickness of any kind is almost a stranger to the people here.

The county seat, RED CLOUD on the Republican river, near the center east and west and a little south of the center north and south. In it are chances for business men of every branch of trade. The country around is such as to warrant a good business in every kind of merchandise. Red Cloud and Guide Rock are the only two laid out towns. Further information can be obtained from any land agent who advertises in this paper, or at this office.

GEN. BRISBON has written a letter to the government at Washington, urging that two new Indian posts be constructed to protect the Black Hills country.

THE bill to admit Colorado into the Union was passed by the Senate, Feb. the 28th. Senator Hitchcock is responsible, mainly, for its passage.

THE bill fixing the President's salary at $25,000 per annum has been favorably reported by the Senate Committee. If the bill becomes a law, Grant will enjoy alone, the proud distinction of receiving double the wages of his predecessors or successors.

SECRETARY BRISTOW reports the amount of coin in the vaults of the Treasury of the U. S. to be 13,000,000. This does not look very much like resumption in 1879.

MOULTON has now begun a suit against Beecher. How long, O Lord, How long!

IN these days of purity and innocence, in this centennial year of patriotism, it is refreshing to hear politicians of Nebraska charged with corruption and bribery. The Kearney *Press* recently charged half a dozen leading Nebraska statesmen with selling their votes to a man by the name of Patrick of Omaha, who was a candidate for Senator. Among others, Hendershot, who represents this country, with others, was implicated. Immediately, the several gentlemen published cards in the papers denying all knowledge of the "ways that are dark and the tricks that are vain." Mr Hendershot goes so far as to offer rewards to any one who will make a sworn statement of his connection with anything of the kind. Would a guilty man do that? And yet the Kearney *Press* does'nt "back water."

THE Secretary of War, Gen. Belknap has resigned. The cause was that a man, by the name of Marsh, testified before the committee on expenditures of the War Department that he had paid $10,000 to Belknap for an appointment, and $6,000 yearly since. The evidence of Marsh is conclusive to this extent, Mrs. Belknap got the position for him and received the money. Charity supposes Belknap innocent, but willing to assume the responsibility of his wife's conduct. Belknap, however, confesses himself not free from guilt. Belknap was a candidate for U. S. Senator before the legislature of Iowa, two months ago.

This is the second cabinet officer of Grant's appointment who has been compelled to resign from fear of impeachment, not including Att'y Gen. Williams.

MORE crime, more corruption and more investigation. Gen. Schenck, Minister to England, is the lucky man this time. A congressional committee has taken the General in hand for his share in the Emma Mine Fraud. One Lyon tells some pretty hard stories about our ministers connection with the scheme. Schenck denies Lyon's stories in a public letter. Of the two men we know Gen. Schenck to be the honest one, because he has occupied office for a long time. The time seems to have arrived when previous good character is the only evidence that officials bring to rebut direct evidence of guilt.

THE legislature of Louisiana have taken measures to impeach Governor Kellogg.

NOW is a fitting time to suggest to the farmers the propriety of making some experiments with the summer's crops. There ought to be a more active spirit among farmers in this respect. We know but little about Nebraska, and the ideas of farming derived from even a long experience in other states is not sufficient here. If there is anything of which we are convinced, it is that the modes of farming in the we climates of the Mississippi valley will not be successful here. We must try to learn the peculiarities of our adopted state and conform our farming to those peculiarities. Talk as much as we please, there is not the same amount of moisture in Nebraska that there is in the Eastern States. The question whether there is sufficient moisture to raise crops with profit has been answered affirmatively by the most of us. But the fact remains that we have little enough, and our farming, our plowing, our sowing and our cultivating must be regulated accordingly. What kind of plowing, What kind of sowing is most advisable to guard against the drouth; we can only find out by experiment. We are anxious to see every farmer try as many modes of plowing and sowing as be can conveniently, to gain light on this question. There is a division of opinion among the most intelligent farmers on this question, and the truth can only be ascertained by constant and repeated experiment.

THERE have been no licenses granted this year, and yet intoxication is seen in our village. "Evidently, says Bro. ——, there is something wrong. We look to the paper to denounce and expose this underhanded traffic. The paper should be the moral censor of the public. It should constantly uphold the right, and mercilessly scourge the wrong. It is the duty of the editor with his omnipresent eye to perceive all the wrongs and evils of the social and civil body, and unsparingly lash them out of existence. We look to him for information. We expect him to direct the public indignation against every form and mode of injustice, oppression, immorality and rascality. If the paper does not all this and more, it is wanting in its obligations to the public." Not so fast, Brother. In this day the press is, indeed, the great instrument of reform, and when its lips are silent, the progress of reform lags. When its voice does not denounce, social and civil wrongs, stalk abroad boldly. All this we willingly admit. Yet it is not the fault of the editor, that evils are unscourged. It is the fault of its patronage. The paper of a community reflects the enterprise of its patrons, and the moral sentiments of its readers, or else it is indifferent. It requires courage and strong moral and religious support to enable the press to boldly attack the evils which are patent to its eyes. Nothing would be more gratifying to our feelings and conscience than to denounce everything tainted with corruption or injury to the public. But an important question meets us at the outset. What support have we? What backing can we count on? Suppose the paper attacked all the abuses which the public are subject to. It would certainly lose the patronage of those engaged in the abuse. Could it stand without that patronage? What could it fall back upon? What moral support has the press in these western towns? The brewery and the dram-shop support the press infinitely better than the church and the temperance people. The condition of a western paper is similar to that of a preacher whose salary or living is contributed by the dram-sellers. The minister would be obliged to regard with tolerance, that which his conscience could not approve, simply because offending his supporters would result in his ceasing to preach. We see countless evils that we would gladly expose and condemn, but our religious support wouldn't buy the paper for the next issue. Evil men understand this,—the church won't see it, and so the press is silent when it should be rigorously castigating the offenders of social laws and public rights.

Proceedings of the Farmer's Institute.

(*Continued from last week.*)

RED CLOUD, Neb., Feb. 25, '76.

We whose names are hereto attached, agree to incorporate ourselves into a Farmer's Institute, to be organized permanently at some future meeting:

Mark H. Warner, Adam Morhart, E. Kellogg, Peter Head, G. W. Knight, C. H. Potter, C. B. Head, A. B. Hanner, H. Holdridge, John D. Leach, G. W. Rise, R. R. Sherer, R. B. Fulton, R. Mitchell, E. T. Fearn, C. C. Coon, J. M. Sellars, Nelson Phelps, Jas. S. Gilham, W. W. Brewer, D. S. Helvern, M. B. McNitt.

Work to be Done at the Annual District School Meeting.

As it will soon be time for the people to assemble to transact the business pertaining to their school districts for the ensuing year, I deem it important to call their attention to a few points of great interest to them and of vital importance to the State.

1st. Full, correct and detailed reports should be required from the director and treasurer.

The director's report should embrace a detailed account of all repairs on school house, of the purchase of furniture, apparatus, reference books, etc, specifying each item and its cost, of the length of time school has been taught, name of the teacher, grade of the certificate held by him or her, wages paid per month, number of pupils attending school, average attendance, number of visits made by director, general efficiency of the school, condition of school house and out houses, etc., etc.

The report should also contain suggestions and recommendations for the work of the ensuing year. It should mention the books and apparatus necessary to render the school more efficient, the repairs and fixtures necessary, length of time school should be sustained, (and it is hoped that no district will think of having less than six months), the importance of proper out houses, (there are in the State 693 school houses without a shadow of an out house! Shame! Shame!! on such districts.) the amount of money needed to carry on the school, and the sources from which it must be derived.

If the director will take pains with his report, he can do very much to awaken a proper interest in the cause of education in his district, or he can do much to injure the cause, and hinder all laudable efforts to sustain a good school.

The great thought should be how many months can we possibly sustain school; not how few months and meet the requirements of the law. It is the education of their children that should induce the people to sustain a school; all else is of slight importance. The treasurer should give a full, concise, and detailed report of all receipts and disbursements. His report should clearly show all the sources of receipts, the time when he received any money, and the fund from whic it was derived; also, an itemized report of all expenditures in detail, specifying the time when paid out, the fund from which it was paid, the person to whom paid, and the object for which paid.

The total receipts should always equal the total expenditures, including the moneys on hand. It sometimes happens that reports reach my office showing the expenditures to be greater than the receipts!

It is exceedingly important that the treasurer should be *required* to report, as it would doubtless save thousans of dollars annually to the schools of this State, and afford much satisfaction to the people of the districts, and form a correct basis for proper reports to this office.

2d. Districts should take the utmost care in selecting proper school officers. The peace and prosperity of the district depends almost wholly upon these. Perhaps more than one half of all district broils and difficulties originate with district officers in some way.

When a school officer is elected he must be retained for three years. There is no way only through the courts of getting rid of him, unless he chooses to resign.

3d The utmost care must be taken in levying district taxes.

Judge John A. Dillon, of the U. S. Circuit Court, has decided that the fund known as the contingent or incidental fund is illegal and cannot be collected; the same matter is now before the Supreme Court of this State for adjudication.

It will therefore be necessary that the objects for which the tax is levied be explicitly stated.

It will be better to itemize the levy somewhat after this form:

For repairs on school houses and school furniture.....
For fuel, books of reference, and apparatus .....
For teacher's Wages and payment of school officers.....

In order to sustain each school properly, each district will now need to levy a tax for teacher's wages, as the State levy for schools is only one mill now. This with other causes will reduce the amount formerly received per scholar from one dollar to one and a half dollars; hence no district need expect hereafter to be able to support a school with what is received from the State apportionment.

The new constitution cuts off *all* State aid from districts not sustaining school at least three months within the school year. J. M. McKINZIE, State Superintendent Pub. Inst.

Poultry Raising.

There is none of the small sources of farm profit that equal poultry raising, while there is none so overlooked.

Apart from this view of it, nothing in the way of eating is so healthy, and so supremely delightful as every day a broiled, fried, baked or boiled fat chicken.

"A correspondent from South Carolina, writes us: Pray tell us something about raising young turkeys and chickens; what should be their diet? etc. Our correspondent has easily asked in one short line, what it has taken many books to answer. And very much of that great deal had better not have been said. We will say, first, that vermin is the great enemy of young poultry of all kinds, and no care or trouble that we have ever taken with a hen house ever gave us exemption from this pest. Living, as we do, in the country, we prefer to have our hens make their nests about under brush heaps, or other safe retreats provided for them out doors, that they may escape the annoyance of the insect formentoes that worry the old and destroy the young. This means prevention, and it is far better than cure, of course.

Feeding sulphur about three times a week in fair weather will so impregnate the flesh with this mineral that it will alleviate the injury from mites, if not entirely prevent it. If hens are setting in close proximity to each other, the careful breeder will not fail each day, and more than once, to step in and see that each proprietress is in her own nest, that no eggs are broken, etc.

Should it turn out that an egg has been broken, let the whole 'setting' be washed in luke-warm water, and well wiped, for if this is not done, there will be few or no chicks from that setting.

After the hatching, and as soon as the mother shows signs that her young brood need sun and exercise, take off the brood and place them with the hen in a coop removed apart from the rest of the poultry, and keep them thus restricted four or five days till the callow young have gained strength to follow the active movements of the mother.

Do not feed too often. Three or four times a day is often enough, if there is anything of a range convenient. The best feed for chickens, after they are a few days old, is the 'screenings' from a flour mill, and the next best, millet or coarse meal from corn. Remember that a fowl, like a man, is an omniverous animal, and one sort of food will not answer. The reason why chickens do so much better around a stable than anywhere else is, that in addition to the grain they pick up, they reap the abundant crob of young flies and grubs which find their *habitat* there.

Young turkeys should receive pretty much the same treatment as young chickens. But chopped onions and onion tops, and bread baked with a little grease of some sort in it, is now the popular pabulum for young turkeys.

Some breeders of our acquaintance never omit a feed of curds or clabber ever day, and regard it as very healthy for the young turkeys, and promotive of rapid growth. This variety of poultry is very irregular in its vital statistics. Some seasons it really seems impossible to rear a turkey, and at other times nothing is easier. We have had at one time, as many as ninety-four, all grown, and perfect beauties, in one drove, and then again we have resolved, from the miserable failures that followed our efforts, never to try again. But at Christmas a turkey always seemed such a plausible, feasible, delightful and indispensable, thing, that our ill-humor at failures always vanished. Yet a turkey well raised, everything having been propitious, will be worth ten dollars, as near as we can estimate the cost.—*Rural Texan.*

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47-d **Red Cloud, Neb.**

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Cribs, lounges, settees, and mattresses too
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They have wagons and horses for children to sell,
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