



"Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty," and One Dollar a year is the Price of The Chief.

Vol. 17.

RED CLOUD, WEBSTER COUNTY, NEB., FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1890.

No. 37.

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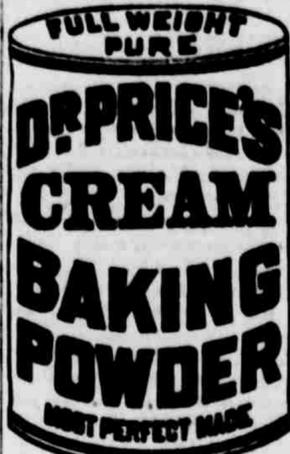
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WALNUT CREEK.

"Uncle Tom" Jones one of our earliest settlers is once more amongst us. Although over eighty years old "Uncle Tommy" is as spry as most men at half his age.

All the tillable land in Walnut will be farmed this year.

Town meeting was held April 1st, with a slim attendance. The meeting was called to meet at the new framed school house in District 3, but owing to misconnections the school board were late in arriving to unlock the house to the people thinking that it was another "lock out" adjourned to the old store house, to relieve all misapprehension, had the people waited five minutes longer they would have gotten into the house.

A levy of 2 1/2 mills for township expense was voted, the lowest amount ever voted in Walnut. The supervisor was instructed to leave a levy of 25 mills made against old district 3 to apply on mandamus. The supervisor was also instructed to take legal advice as to what could be done toward repudiating our road machine contract all who have worked with this machine pronounce it N. G.

A discussion on delinquent personal taxes arose and an attempt was made which failed, to have our supervisor use his influence toward crowding these taxes by means of distress warrants or regards these taxes, Dennis has decided views based in a great measure on his conversation in regard thereto with many people. Of course there is quite an amount owing to the county by delinquents and the delinquents will be as witness that they are charged 10 per cent interest supposing it was paid into the county treasury, it would be deposited in some bank and the interest that the county would get would be NIX. Dennis has noted with amusement that in nearly every case the parties claiming the lowest for the collection of these taxes are men who homesteaded their land and held it 7, and even 12 years without paying any tax while their neighbors who had bought R. R. land were paying not only their own share of taxes but the homesteaders share as well, Dennis has agreed to show where in the "years gone by" a citizen of Walnut with no children to send to school paid \$15 tax for one year on 160 acres of land his interest in the land amounting to 2 payments while his homesteader neighbors with 2 or 3 children going to school in our \$2000 or \$3000 school house paid nothing. This wasn't for one year but it ran for several years, the

amount was not always quite as large but nearly as and now that homesteader's neighbor swears with a big D "delinquent taxes have got to come." Now for a point of history. Along about '87, our county commissioners out of the goodness of their hearts had stricken from the tax list all delinquent personal taxes prior to '80. Dennis knows of one citizen of Walnut (perhaps more) who held his land free from taxes to that time and was besides delinquent on his personal taxes which by this act he escaped paying. Personal taxes are nothing but robbery in Webster county any way. It is a tax on something which 6 times out of 10 doesn't really belong to the party, to illustrate, a man owns 100 acres of land mortgaged for all it would sell for. He pays taxes on full assessable value, he takes the borrowed money and invests it in personal property and is called again to pay taxes on it. The party holding mortgage pays no tax, another man may borrow \$500 to feed cattle that will sell in the spring for perhaps \$1500 April 1st, he is assessed the full assessable value of these cattle and the man with the \$500 interest in them doesn't pay a "nick" there is a good deal that could be said on this subject but space forbids. "Double" taxation like this is hurting the farmers just as much as R. R. extortion although our alliance friends don't seem to think so. A man's cow can be taken for taxes. The Lord knows that the farmers hereabouts have had it hard enough for the last 4 years and to many a distress warrant now would be the last straw. With one more item Dennis is done. Our supervisors have made their estimate for the county expenses for 1890 it amounts to \$40,000 our school township and state expenses will be no much more making in all \$60,000. There are 2300 votes in Webster county and the per capita tax for each voter will be \$25. "Sweet spirit hear me utter"

Like others Dennis is somewhat behind on his personal taxes but aside from that he has paid into the county treasury of this county between \$250 and \$3000 as taxes on nearly 160 acres of land, so a years for this he has received absolutely nothing except to be arrested when he landed on having a little use of the school house himself, he has neighbors who for from 5 to 12 years paid no taxes and all the time had from 2 to 10 or 20 children in school, of course these taxes should be collected and eventually will be but "wait till the clouds roll by" a little. For men who homesteaded their land in this county to talk about "distressing" people right now in the shape we are all in is simply "sheeky". There are some parties whose sole anxiety to see these taxes crowded lies in the fact that they have a grudge at some one and instead of taking it out any other way would see his family "chopped" in their supplies by means of a distress warrant. Dennis can name one or more such men in Walnut, another class who want these taxes crowded are the women. If the supervisors want to do something fair let them go through the chattle mortgage record and make every money lender pay taxes on what he has recorded unrecalled. Mr. McNitt showed good sense when he jumped into the sea instead of following the lamentable advice (by many) of the lamentable H. G. "go west young man". It would have been all right had he added "and beat up with" the county.

Taylor