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# THE RED CLOUD CHIEF

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NUMBER 29

## COUNTY ATTORNEY'S STATEMENT

### Mr. Blackledge Gives Some Information Regarding the Barker Case.

County Attorney Blackledge has prepared the following statement for publication concerning the Barker insanity trial. While the result of the trial is a disappointment to Mr. Blackledge and nine out of ten people in the county, it is no fault of his that the trial went the way it did. He went to Lincoln and gave the attorney general all possible assistance, remaining there until the verdict of the jury was announced. Mr. Blackledge said that the case would be fought to the finish, but at the same time he realizes that it will be a difficult matter to secure a jury of twelve men in Lancaster county who will say that Barker is sane within the meaning of the law. In our opinion the time will come when Lancaster county will become so tired of these insanity cases that no attorney will care to appeal to the court of that county to save the neck of a cold-blooded murderer. Following is the statement of Mr. Blackledge:

"To the Publisher—So much interest has been shown by citizens of the county in the recent trial at Lincoln in the matter of Frank Barker's insanity that a statement from me might be of interest to your readers.

"The trial lasted one week, and was before Judge Frost of the Lancaster county district court and a jury of twelve citizens of that county.

"Barker testified in his own behalf and produced as witnesses a number of employes of the broom shop at the pen, where he has been working, who testified they believed him insane, as did also a number of convicts—three of them under sentence for murder and two for embezzlement. Besides these there was one physician and the prison chaplain who were of the same opinion.

"On the other hand the prison physician, Dr. Holyoke, and Drs. Hay, Kern and Young, superintendents of the three insane hospitals of the state, who examined Barker, all stated that in their opinion he is sane, as did also a number of Lincoln doctors who had examined him.

"Barker was proven to have told a different story of the crime after the trial in Webster county than what he now says he remembers of it, and seven witnesses from Webster county who had known him well here testified that there is no noticeable change in his looks or actions from what they were at and before the trial, and that from their knowledge of him he always has been and still is sane.

"The general impression of those who followed the trial of the case was that the state had made very clear proof of his sanity.

"The jury was unable to agree on a verdict, however, standing six for sanity and six for insanity. They were discharged by the court and another trial of the same matter set for September 9, when a new jury will be called.

"I expect to be there to assist the attorney general.

"It is reported that in the meantime Barker's attorney will try to get the sentence commuted to life imprisonment, but I do not think Governor Sheldon will interfere.

"The costs of the hearing amounted to about \$500, which probably Lancaster county will have to pay.

"We have all learned something by this trial, which was the first of its kind in the state, and I think the state can make a stronger case next time than it did this.

"L. H. BLACKLEDGE,  
County Attorney."

To show the general trend of opinion we publish a few editorial extracts from the Lincoln papers:

Lincoln Star: "No doubt the people who live in the locality where Frank Barker committed the crime for which he is condemned to die are a little impatient over the law's delays, but they must remember that these delays are a natural part of the administration of justice and that the laws must be supreme. It may be irritating to those who feel confident that Barker ought

to pay the penalty now to know that because of the insanity jury's disagreement he is to have a respite of many more weeks, but here is a time for a display of that noble patience which criminal procedure tests so frequently."

The Evening News says: "It has got to a point where many level-headed citizens believe a halt should be called on the activity of the penitentiary officials in aiding criminals to escape the punishment imposed upon them after being fairly tried and convicted. Chaplain P. C. Johnson has probably done more along this line than any other. He draws a salary from the state for looking after the spiritual welfare of the convicts, but apparently conceives it his duty to assist in freeing them from the consequences of their crimes. Johnson is the man who made the original affidavit two years ago, expressing a belief that Barker was insane. The law specifies the warden as the officer to make the affidavit, if he holds such a belief, but Warden Beemer refused and Johnson obligingly stepped into the breach. The chaplain testified for Barker in the later hearing, saying the latter was 'mentally and morally deficient.' Johnson also lent his assistance in getting a pardon for Mrs. Lillie. His aid was enlisted more than once in securing paroles and commutations for prisoners during the Mickey administration."

The Journal caustically comments on the unfairness of making Lancaster county bear the expense of the trial, amounting to \$500, saying it is impossible to tell how many times Judge Hamer will insist on bringing the case up.

### A Good Result.

Under the operation of the new Pure Food Laws, baking powders now generally bear on the labels a statement of the ingredients. This is of the utmost importance because of the harmful ingredients used in many cases.

Royal Baking Powder is known to be the only baking powder made of Royal Cream of Tartar, and this no doubt explains its greatly increased sale here.

Careful housekeepers are taking advantage of the protection which the laws afford, and are examining all the reading matter on the back of the label before adopting any brand for use in the home.

When in the place of cream of tartar the words "alum," "aluminum" or "phosphate of lime" appear among the ingredients, they heed the warning and avoid baking powders containing these substitutes.

## RED CLOUD 6, HASKELL 1

### Indians Defeated Wednesday in a Fast Game on Red Cloud Grounds.

There was a splendid turnout Wednesday to witness the baseball game between the Haskell Indians and the Red Cloud team. Of course nearly everyone predicted that the Indians would have a walkaway, but when the smoke of battle cleared away it was the Indians who were found to have been scalped instead of the palefaces.

"Doc" Nelson had a "bum" arm as result of the game at Cowles on Monday, and the Red Cloud team was strengthened by securing the service of "Doc" Fellars, the Chester twirler, who pitched a heady game and had the Indians at his mercy at critical points in the game.

Red Cloud started the fireworks in the third inning when Nelson and Saunders both hit safe after two men were out. With Saunders on second and Nelson on first, Boyd Smith hit a clean two-bagger that scored both men. Up to the last half of the fifth the Indians had not succeeded in getting a man past first base.

In the sixth inning the locals again took a batting streak. Lane and Graves singled, and both scored on Smith's two-bagger. Hines got a safe one and Saunders hit one into the trees which the Indians could not find, and both men scored.

It looked like a shut-out up to the first half of the ninth, when one of the redskins hit one into the trees and managed to get to second, scoring on a clean single into right field. They got a couple more men on bases, but the heady pitching of Fellars and the fast fielding of the Red Cloud boys prevented their scoring again. The last Indian went out on a difficult foul fly which Harry Brown captured after running through the crowd along the right field foul line.

A neat double play occurred in the fifth, when the Indians had men on first and second. Fellars fielded a hot one which he slammed to Lane at second, cutting off the runner, and Lane got it down to Brown at first in time to cut off the batter, retiring the side.

With the exception of a collision between Nelson and Graves in left field, the Red Cloud boys played an errorless game, while the Indians had two to their credit.

However, the Red Cloud team outbatted the visitors and earned their victory.

The Indians will play at Cowles Saturday.

Now is the time to subscribe.

## STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

### C. E. Putnam, Two Sons and Two Other Gentlemen Severely Shocked

During the storm Saturday afternoon, near Cowles, the barn on C. E. Putnam's place was struck by lightning, and splinters of wood were thrown in every direction. Mr. Putnam and his two sons, N. C. and Miles, and George Denton and a gentleman whose name we did not learn had taken refuge from the storm in the barn. Mr. Putnam was badly injured from the shock, and the others were more or less shaken up. The lightning burned a blister nearly a foot square on Mr. Putnam's breast, and he was rendered unconscious. The bolt ran down his leg, tearing his clothing and burning his flesh. It went through the heel of his shoe, piercing a hole as clean as a bullet hole. His shoe was torn from his foot and thrown quite a distance. A silver watch which he carried in his pocket was melted.

George Denton was also struck by the bolt and badly burned and shocked, though his injuries were not so serious as were those of Mr. Putnam.

### No Opposition.

It begins to look as if the present Republican office holders were all going to be given another term, with the exception of County Assessor Turner, whom the law does not permit holding office another term.

County Treasurer W. C. Frahm, who has been one of the most efficient and accommodating treasurers the county has ever had, will have no opposition within his own party. He represents the northern part of the county on that ticket.

Sheriff O. D. Hedge has surprised his friends and confounded his political enemies by his exceptionally good work in the office of sheriff. Oliver has shown that, though he is a giant in stature, he can get around over the country and round up the lawbreakers with surprising ease and swiftness. He will go into the campaign this fall with as good a record as any sheriff of the county has ever had, and he will have no trouble in being re-elected.

Mrs. Nellie West Caster, county superintendent, will have a clear field in the race for the Republican nomination. Up to the present time we have heard of no other candidate for nomination, and it is certain she will have no opposition within the party. The office is by no means a sinecure, and with the possible exception of the office of county clerk there is more work attached to it than to any other county office.

## COLLEGE LEASED

### L. M. Steward Will Manage Business College the Coming Year.

Mr. Lewis M. Steward, who came here recently from Columbus, O., has taken the management of the Red Cloud Business College. Mr. Steward formerly was manager of the Columbia Commercial University of Lancaster, O. He received a commercial education at the famous Columbus Business College of Columbus, O., and since his graduation has taken a very active part in commercial life.

Mrs. Lewis Steward will be principal of the shorthand and typewriting departments, teaching the Gregg system of shorthand and the touch system of typewriting. Mrs. Steward graduated with highest honors at the Columbus Business College in 1905 and now holds an unbeaten record on the Underwood typewriter.

In speaking of the Gregg system of shorthand, Mr. Steward claims that it is the greatest and simplest system ever placed before the American people.

The school will open September 3, and everyone is invited to visit the college headquarters tent during the Chautauqua.

## BARKER JURY DISAGREE

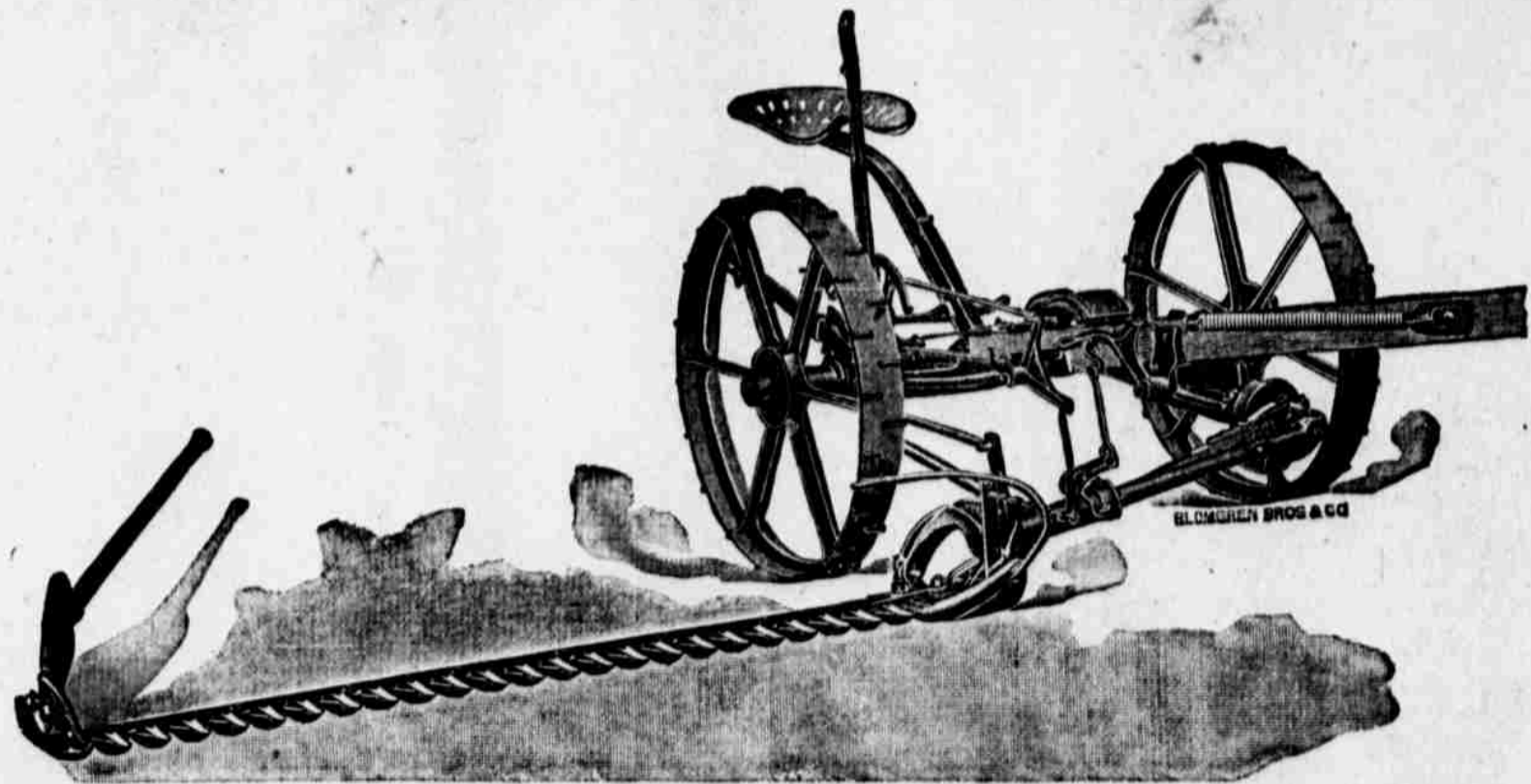
### Another Fiasco in the Case of the Webster County Murderer

The jury in the insanity case, which was tried at Lincoln last week, was discharged Sunday morning after having announced that they were unable to reach a verdict. They stood six to six against insanity.

It would be a difficult matter to convince any citizen of this county that Barker is insane within the meaning of the law. The case will be brought up again in the district court of Lancaster county September 9. It begins to look as though Barker would escape the death penalty.

## The Webster County Fair.

L. E. Spence was down from Bladen this week soliciting advertising for the premium list of the Webster County Fair, to be held at Bladen, September 23 to 28. Both the speed and agricultural exhibit premiums have been greatly increased, and a good time is promised to all who attend. The people of Bladen are very hospitable, and they do not look at the expense account when getting up an entertainment. As this is the only agricultural society in the county, every one who can possibly do so should make arrangements to attend.



When you buy a Mower, buy a STANDARD, for the following reasons: You can line up the cutter bar when it drops back or out of line. You can make the sections register in the center of the guards. It has a cutter bar that never drops with the outer end, and the BEST FOOT LIFT that ever was made. I have them in 5, 6, 7 and 8 foot cut. Come and look them over.

## JAMES PETERSON.