

ONE EFFECT OF PROSPERITY

State School Funds Increase Because People Pay Their Taxes.

EVIDENCE FROM LANCASTER COUNTY BOOKS

Even Uncle Jake Wolfe Contributes to Confute the Campaign Cry of His Popercrate Brethren in the State House.

LINCOLN, Aug. 16.—(Special).—The sham reformers at the state house have sent out over the state during the past few months an increase in the school fund under their "careful management," making thereby an argument that the present state officials must be kept in office. No credit is given to the good crops over the state, the improved financial condition of the farmers and business men of the state or the general prosperity of the country under the McKinley administration.

Careful inquiry shows that if any officials are entitled to credit the officers of the various counties come in ahead of the state house reformers, as the large increase in collections is certified in by the county treasurers. It is the case in every county that under the prosperity of the last two years taxes have been promptly paid than for several years and that large amounts of back taxes have been paid in—not because the popercrate have control of the state house, but because the people have money to pay taxes with.

Lancaster as an Example. An investigation of the books shows that Lancaster county, for instance, is entitled to some of the credit that the "reformers" claim for themselves. In this county the tax collections for the first seven months of each of the three years named were as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1896: \$10,252.47; 1897: \$10,532.69; 1898: \$11,184.82.

This shows that during the last year of the Cleveland administration the people of Lancaster county paid in taxes at the rate of \$38.74 per month, and so far in 1898 at the rate of \$45.21 per month.

The officials of Lancaster county are republicans and the popercrate state officials are entitled to none of the credit for this great gain. In the same county the collections from state school and saline lands for the first seven months of each year have been as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1896: \$9,771.54; 1897: \$10,501.05; 1898: \$11,184.82.

The county treasurer, when interviewed on this remarkable increase, said: "You can safely say that the money is paid in, not because I or Uncle Jake Wolfe or any other man is in office in this state, but simply because the taxpayers have the money to pay with. The collection of straight taxes in this county for July of this year is about \$10,000 more than for the same month in 1896. It is an indication that money is plenty and that the farmers are better off than they were in 1896. I have no doubt the same conditions prevail in the other counties of the state."

Case of Uncle Jake Wolfe. In looking for an example of the prosperity of individuals during the last two years and their increased ability to pay taxes, the best one found is in the person of Uncle Jake Wolfe himself. At the time he was introduced into the office he now holds, on January 7, 1897, Uncle Jake Wolfe owed delinquent personal taxes in Lancaster county as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Tax Type, Amount. Personal: \$27.75; Real Estate: \$14.43; Total: \$42.18.

These amounts had been due for a long time and it is said that Uncle Jake Wolfe had lived in the county for two years that he had never voluntarily paid a cent of taxes, having always waited for collection to be enforced in some way. Now it seems that in the last two years prosperity has also struck Uncle Jake Wolfe, and show that he has paid off the amounts for the last four years named. This also shows that the increase in the state funds is not due to the "careful management" of the present popercrate state officials, but is because Uncle Jake Wolfe and the other citizens of the state have been able to pay up a large amount of their back taxes. It also indicates that if the present condition of prosperity continues the balance of these items of back taxes will be paid up and the state funds will be increased in proportion.

When this general payment of back taxes is taken into consideration and it is remembered that the present state board of school lands and funds struck off the books the accounts of delinquent holders of school land leases, amounting to over \$400,000 and that this cancellation of the accounts occurred just when the leaseholders were becoming able to pay up, the "careful management" of the present state officials is shown to be a fraud. The whole cancellation permitted such men as Chairman Edmiston to take new leases on the old farms without paying up the large amounts due, but it has caused the state to lose many thousands of dollars.

Lincoln Local Notes. The "Wisconsin" picnic at the park yesterday was a very successful one. The date of the seventy former Wisconsin people present. There is a movement on the part of the people of Lincoln to arrange for a peace ball and a big demonstration in the city similar to the "Lincoln day" of last year. Roddy McNamara, one of the gamblers who was sentenced to the penitentiary for the robbery of the Lincoln National bank, was liberated today, his term having expired. Bill Gleason, another one of the gamblers, will be let out some time this week.

The people of the First Presbyterian church will hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss plans for continuing the work of the rescue home for girls now being here. After the payment of August subscriptions financial aid ceases under the present plan of operation. Committees from the various societies to which Harry Hotchkiss belonged held a meeting last night to arrange for the funeral services when the body of Hotchkiss reaches here from St. Louis. The date set for the ceremonies is September 4 and representative hall has been selected as the place. The plans have been drawn for the new Richards block and work will commence on the building as soon as the ruins can be cleared away from the place where the old Richards block stood. The new building is to be a story in height and will be a modern office building of the colonial style of architecture.

The city council at its meeting last night decided that some changes must be made in the estimate of materials for the paving of the streets. The new estimate called for "pressed" brick and placed the maximum price at \$13.75 per thousand. The new estimate strikes out the word "pressed" and raises the maximum to \$17 per thousand. There is considerable strife between the brick factories in the state and those in adjoining states to see which shall furnish the brick. A large number of people went out to Agnew, a town on the Union Pacific road, to attend the Catholic picnic yesterday.

WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

Last Week Cool with Only a Few Scattered Showers.

KING CORN IS MAKING FINE PROGRESS

Rains Revive His Majesty and Many Fields that Seemed Dead Now Promise a Good, but Late Yield.

United States Department of Agriculture, climate and crop service of the weather bureau, weekly bulletin, Nebraska section for the week ending Monday, August 15, 1898.

Rainfall chart for week ending 8 a. m., August 15.

General Summary. The last week has been cool with very light scattered showers. The average daily temperature deficiency was 3 degrees in the eastern counties and slightly less than 2 degrees in the western. The last days of the week were warm with a maximum temperature about, or slightly exceeding, 90 degrees.

Western and Northwestern Sections. Box Butte—Corn improved; potatoes good; peas and hay excellent. Cheyenne—Hay making in progress; corn needs rain.

Southwestern Section. Butler—Thrashing and fall plowing progressing well; corn growing fairly well, but uneven; late and will be a poor crop. Cass—Late corn sowing well; early-planted corn in roasting ear; a good rain needed.

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Merrick—Corn has made great improvement since the rain.

Nance—Corn late and needs rain. Sherman—Stacking finished; getting too dry to plow corn needs rain.

SOUTHWESTERN SECTION

Adams—Corn improved; ground in fine condition; plowing finished. Chase—Corn sowing well and in good condition. Dundy—Corn sowing well and there seems to be plenty of moisture for some time yet; grasshoppers numerous.

Franklin—Some fields of corn where the stand is light look well; plowing for wheat in progress; potatoes a little crop. Frontier—Good week for corn and for stacking and thrashing.

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CORBETT'S FATHER MURDERER

Kills His Wife and Then Shoots Himself—His Injuries of a Fatal Nature.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 16.—Jim Corbett's father today shot and killed his wife and then turned the weapon upon himself with fatal effect. He will not live.

It is believed that the murderer was demoralized. He had been in extremely poor health for some time.

The shooting occurred at the residence of the Corbett family, 520 Hayes street. Shortly before 5 o'clock this morning Mr. Corbett, who is 62 years of age, was sitting in the house, heard two shots in his father-in-law's room. Hurrying to the room he was horrified to find Mrs. Corbett lying in bed covered with blood, while his father-in-law lay on the floor with blood pouring from his mouth. Mrs. Corbett was in her night attire, while her husband was fully dressed. Death must have been instantaneous. There was a wound in Mrs. Corbett's temple and Corbett had killed himself by putting the muzzle of the revolver in his mouth. From the appearance of the bodies it is believed that Corbett arose early in the morning, dressed himself and shot his aged wife while she slept. She had evidently died instantly, for she still lay in her bed with her eyes closed. It is believed that Corbett was demoralized. He had just returned from Bartlett Spring, where he had been stopping for his health.

NEW YORK, Aug. 16.—James J. Corbett was much shocked when he learned of the death of his parents. At first he refused to believe it, but when the news was confirmed he broke down and wept like a child. His trainers, McVey and White, tried to console him, but to no purpose. Corbett said that his father must have become insane, or would not have committed such a terrible deed. He could not account for it in any other way. Both his father and mother, he said, took a deep interest in his affairs and he felt that his father had been unjustly treated by the press. He said that he would not return to Bartlett Spring, where he had been stopping for his health.

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