

The Sioux County Journal.

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The Deeper the More Rotten.

Ed. JOURNAL: That defender of the county ring, the Herald, in its last issue says Walker and Conley are looking for an office. Poor thing! don't worry, but to say that the Commissioners would do nothing wrong knowingly is too thin altogether as the following will show: At the meeting of the County Board on March 11th, this appears of record:

"On motion it was ordered that the clerk advertise for two weeks,—to do about one mile of grading on line of new road, to build and furnish material for 5 culverts, to build three bridges. Plans and specifications on file. Bids to be received at Clerk's office up to noon March 25, and opened the same day.

March 25, '89, this is the record:

"Board proceeded to examine the bids for building bridges and culverts and doing grading on line of new road. The bid of M. J. Carroll to do about one mile of grading as staked out by the county surveyor, to commence at south-west corner of William Schleyer's place and run in a southerly direction to top of divide, being the lowest, contract was given to him for \$400, from road fund of 1889, to be completed by June 1, 1889, grading to be 20 feet on top, the outside to be 1 1/2 feet higher, work subject to the approval of the board."

Now just a few words on the above. Will the Board please inform us which is the outside of a road or does it mean that the center of the road shall be 18 inches lower than the outside?

"Bid of Murphy & Whitney to do grading as staked by county surveyor to commence at south-west corner of Schleyer's place and north on line of road to north-west corner of J. B. Bradley's place for \$200, including the necessary fillings, being the lowest bid, contract was let to them for \$200 from the road fund of '89, grading and filling to be 20 feet wide, to be completed by June 1, '89. For the sum of \$550 each, from the bridge fund of 1889 contract let to Murphy & Whitney to build a bridge at Montrose and across Sowbelly at Knott's place. One across Antelope for \$200 and two on Sowbelly for \$200 each and five culverts for the sum of \$150, stone butments two feet below bed of creek, to be completed by June 1st. The lumber and timber now at Montrose, now the property of the county, to be used in the construction of the bridges by the contractors and credited to county, the amount to be deducted from contract cost of bridges. Contractors to give bond of \$100 to perform labor as agreed, work to be completed by June 1, '89, subject to approval of County commissioners, to be paid from bridge fund of 1889."

The total amount of these contracts is \$2,450. The statutes require that the same shall be advertised in some newspaper of general circulation for four consecutive weeks, and if the amount shall be over \$500 it shall also be published in some newspaper of general circulation in the state for four consecutive weeks, but our commissioners in defiance of the law so plainly given that a blind man might not err, order the clerk to advertise for two weeks in the county paper only. The compiled statutes of 1887, chapter 78, reads:

Sec. 83. [Contracts for building bridges, roads, etc.]—All contracts for the erection and repair of bridges and approaches thereto, for the building of culverts, and improvements on roads, the cost or expense of which shall exceed one hundred dollars, shall be let by the county commissioners to the lowest competent bidder, but no contract shall be entered into for a greater sum than the amount of money on hand in the county road fund derived from the levy of previous years, and two-thirds of the levy for the current year, together with the amount of money in the district road fund of the district where such work is to be performed; and every bidder, before entering on any work pursuant to contract, shall give bond to the county with at least two good and sufficient sureties, in any sum double the amount of the contract, which bond shall be approved by the county commissioners, conditioned for the faithful execution of the contract.

Sec. 84. [Same—Bids.]—Before any contracts, as aforesaid, shall be let, the county commissioners shall advertise for bids therefor, and shall require bidders to accompany their bids with plans and specifications of the work, and they may accept the most suitable plan, and award the contract accordingly, or may reject any or all bids.

Sec. 85. [Same—Advertisement.]—Such advertisement shall state the general character of the work, and shall be published four consecutive weeks in some newspaper printed and of general circulation in the county; and if there be no newspaper printed in the county, then such advertisement shall be published in some newspaper of general circulation therein. Where the cost of the work exceeds five hundred dollars, such advertisement shall also be published four consecutive weeks in some newspaper printed in, and of general circulation throughout the state.

The Commissioners advertised the letting of three bridges but on the day of opening bids they let the contract for five bridges. Is that all right, Charley? The description of the work to be done is very definite and would well compare with this: "This road is to start from Jack's manure pile and run in a northerly direction to the south-east corner of Williams's barn fence."

The statute as above quoted requires that a bond for double the amount of the contract shall be given, with two good and sufficient sureties, but the Board of Commissioners of Sioux county says that \$100 is large enough; and, by the way, that small bond has never been given, so I am informed by the county clerk. Any fair minded, honest person can see by reading the above that this is a rotten, corrupt way of doing business, and it can never be paid out of county money. If the Board wants to build bridges and pay for them, all well and good, but the tax payers of Sioux county will never allow it to be done in the manner the Board is doing it now. Yours in sympathy, GEORGE WALKER.

Maine historians say that over a hundred years ago wolves came down from the north and devoured almost all the deer in the colony. Some of the deer swam to the islands along the coast and a remnant was saved. The wolves having no deer to eat, turned to the domestic animals of the country and gave the settlers great trouble. The Indians, too, robbed of their meat supply by the wolves, were for a long time in a starving condition, and often those in the interior went miles to the seashore for food. The wolves at length went northward, and little by little the deer increased until 1840, when there was another wolf raid, and for two years played havoc with deer and cattle. Then they disappeared, and have not since been seen much in the State. Deer are again increasing, both because of the absence of wolves and because of the stringent game laws of Maine.

FINAL PROOF NOTICES.

All persons having final proof notices in this paper will receive a marked copy of the paper and are requested to examine their notice and if any errors exist report the same to this office at once.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Land Office at Chadron, Neb., May 31, 1889.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before John W. Hunter, County Judge, at Harrison, Nebraska, on July 15, 1889, viz: JACOB HEANRICH, of Montrose, Neb. who made D. S. filing No. 972 for the SW 1/4 sec. 25, T. 34, R. 65 west.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Land Office at Chadron, Neb., May 31, 1889.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Chas. C. Jameson, clerk of the district court, at Harrison, Neb., on July 19, 1889, viz: FRANK LOUTZENHISER, of Bodare, Neb., who made D. S. filing No. 972 for the NW 1/4 sec. 25, T. 34, R. 65 west.

CONSOLIDATED NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Land Office at Chadron, Neb., May 31, 1889.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before C. C. Jameson, clerk of the district court, at Harrison, Neb., on July 2nd, 1889, viz: HENRY T. MARTIN of Harrison, Neb. who made D. S. filing No. 149 for the SW 1/4 sec. 25, T. 34, R. 65 west.

CONSOLIDATED NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Land Office at Chadron, Neb., May 31, 1889.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Chas. C. Jameson, clerk of the district court, at Harrison, Neb., on July 23, 1889, viz: EMANUEL BETSCHEN, of Harrison, Neb. who made D. S. filing No. 1083 for the NW 1/4 sec. 33, T. 31, R. 56.

CONSOLIDATED NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Land Office at Chadron, Neb., May 31, 1889.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Chas. C. Jameson, clerk of the district court, at Harrison, Neb., on July 23, 1889, viz: FRED BETSCHEN, of Harrison, Neb. who made D. S. filing No. 86 for the NW 1/4 sec. 34, T. 31, R. 56.

CONSOLIDATED NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Land Office at Chadron, Neb., May 31, 1889.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Chas. C. Jameson, clerk of the district court, at Harrison, Neb., on July 23, 1889, viz: CHARLES CAMMENZIND, of Harrison, Neb. who made D. S. filing No. 86 for the NW 1/4 sec. 34, T. 31, R. 56.

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