

# The Sioux County Journal.

[ESTABLISHED 1888.]

Subscription Price, \$2.00

J. J. Simmons, Editor.

Entered At the Harrison post office as second class matter.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1896.

The next state fair will be held at Omaha Aug. 27th to Sept. 6th, 1896.

The affairs at the soldiers' home at Grand Island are said to be in a disgraceful condition and the governor will investigate. In this connection THE JOURNAL wishes to repeat that a civil service law and a commission to enforce it is very much needed in Nebraska.

Sioux county, with its four hundred voters and only two delegates to conventions does not count for much in political matters, but if it could be arranged so that the four northwest counties would go unitedly into the district and state conventions the republicans of the northwest would get some recognition.

Northwest Nebraska has a candidate for state auditor in the person of Mr. G. A. Eckles of Chadron. Mr. Eckles is county attorney of Daves county, and is a gentleman of high standing and ability. He is a republican from the ground up, and the section where he lives will place his claims before the state convention very strongly. —Seward Reporter.

Matt Daugherty has written to the chairman of the republican congressional committee of the 6th district to the effect that he would not be a candidate for the nomination. Matt knows it is no picnic to make a campaign in the big sixth and that the fellow who does get the nomination has got to make a desperate fight if he wins a seat under the dome of the capitol.

George Brooks, of Bazile Mills, is making a preliminary canvass for the republican nomination for state treasurer. So far he is the only man north of the Platte who has announced himself. He has a wide acquaintance in the state and will likely have a strong following in the convention and any fellow who has a desire to be the custodian of Nebraska's cash-box for the next term will do well to keep an eye on Brooks.

The fact that the recent issue of government bonds was all subscribed for by people of this country demonstrated a number of things. It proved that the country could get along, even if England does not want its securities; that a good syndicate is not needed; that there is a lot of gold in this country, and that the people still have confidence in the government and its ultimate ability to meet its obligations.

The fact that the northwest part of the state is putting forth two candidates for delegate to the national republican convention is likely to result in the defeat of both. Such a thing would be just cause for regret. To avoid it THE JOURNAL would suggest that the northwest give its united support to H. M. Wilson for delegate to the national convention and then give the same kind of support to F. W. Smith as a candidate for state senator. Box Butte county has never had a republican candidate for the upper house and it might be a good plan to try it this year.

It is not at all improbable that Senator Allen will be tendered the empty honor of the populist nomination for president, and Secretary Morton has been recently mentioned as an aspirant for the democratic nomination for that high office. Of late it is reported that Gen. Anderson is an out-and-out candidate for the republican nomination for the chief executive of the nation. Now if Ada M. Bittenbender can be induced to be a candidate before the cold water convention the lists will be filled. Nebraska can furnish leaders in all parties. With all the nominees from Nebraska the matter of location would be eliminated from the campaign. Stand up for Nebraska.

The state board of public lands and buildings has appointed James Whitehead of Broken Bow as agent at the penitentiary. His duties are to look after the business management of the institution and do not conflict with the work of the warden. Mr. Whitehead was not an applicant for the place, but the board desired a man for the place whose integrity could not be questioned and hence his selection. It was a high compliment to him, but he was worthy of it. If all officials who have appointments to make could follow the example set by the state board and select men who are capable of winning their own living for such appointments, rather than giving them to lawning cynophants who have come to sneer that the people owe them a living, there would be far less reason for complaint of mismanagement of public affairs. The fellow who has so little self-reliance as to think he must have a living at the hands of the public, whether he is worthy of it or not deserves to be turned down, and the places given to those known to be qualified.

## The County Affairs.

The county commissioners at their last meeting cleared up the work of 1895 and ordered warrants for all claims for which the county was liable, except a few claims about which there was some question. The warrants issued for the year 1895 were as follows: General fund, \$5,163.15; bridge fund, \$424.41; road fund, \$76.50; soldiers' relief fund, \$25.00. Making a total of \$5,629.05.

The warrants issued against the general fund include all court expenses, of which between \$1,500.00 and \$2,000.00 went to pay the costs of the cases of the state against the Slattery and Stone ding and Akers. With one-third of the total expense of running the county having been brought on by criminal proceedings which could neither be foreseen nor avoided by the county board, the record certainly shows favorably to the way in which they conducted the affairs of the county. No heavy bridge work has been done but a number of small bridges have been built and paid for.

In the matter of roads no big claims for damage have been allowed, as is evidenced.

To conduct the business of the county the commissioners were in session as a board of commissioners 15 days and as a board of equalization, 10 days, that being the shortest time in which the work of equalizing the assessment was ever done in the county. In addition to that work the board has looked after bridge matters in various parts of the county.

The total cost to the county for services rendered by the commissioners for the year 1895 was as follows: B. F. Johnson, \$81.00; M. J. Weber \$115.30; Frank Tinkham \$132.50, making a total of \$328.80. The reason that the bills of Weber and Tinkham are larger than that of Johnson is that the bridge matters have taken more of their time, the bridges all having been constructed in their districts.

The decrease in the assessed valuation of the county in 1895 of \$73,129.99 from what it was in 1894 made it hard for the board to avoid an overlap, but they succeeded by close figuring. How they will succeed this year remains to be seen. It is hoped that no criminal prosecutions will be necessary, and if any cases do arise it is hoped that the officials whose duty it is to look after such matters will be pretty certain of their ground before putting the county to a lot of expense.

The amount of revenue which can be raised this year cannot be estimated until after the assessors make their returns. One thing is known, and that is that the population of the county continues to decrease, some estimating that it is less than half what it was when the census was taken in 1890, and a good many others are preparing to leave in the near future. That, naturally means a reduction of the total valuation, and there appears to be no prospect of a change for years unless something extraordinary happens. Business men have settled down to expect such condition, and no one would advise a friend to invest his money in a new business enterprise here, and the same rule will apply to the affairs of the county. Rigid economy is all that will make the revenue meet the expenses, but economy does not mean a penny wise and pound foolish policy, but the present board has not shown itself of that make-up.

There isn't a family in Nebraska that can afford to do without a good general paper during this year 1896. The Semi-Weekly State Journal, published at Lincoln, is the paper that most thoroughly suits the needs of Nebraskans, because it is edited especially for Nebraskans, and in addition to all the stirring national and foreign events, it prints more state news than any other paper and gets it to readers from two to five days earlier than the old-fashioned weekly. The magnificent Washington bureau of the Journal will be an especially important feature this great news-making year of 1896. The Journal's foreign service will come into great play during the war scares and Journal readers will get all the news. When you take a paper take the best you can get for your money, and in Nebraska this means the Semi-Weekly State Journal. You get 104 papers a year for \$1.00 which makes it almost as good as a daily. Always recollect, you get two papers a week, one on Tuesday and one on Friday. The Journal is offering \$250.00 in cash prizes to agents, besides liberal cash commissions. It will pay you to get up a club.

### Just From the Press.

A very attractive publication has just been issued by the passenger department of the Burlington Route. It bears the title "The Newer North-west" and describes in a most interesting and readable fashion those portions of northern Wyoming and the Black Hills of South Dakota which are reached by this company's lines.

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Sioux county is the northwest county of Nebraska. It is about thirty miles east and west by about seventy miles north and south and contains

OVER 1,300,000 ACRES

of land. There are more bright, sparkling, small streams in the county than can be found in the same area elsewhere in the state. It has more pine timber than all the rest of the state combined. Its grasses are the richest and most nutritious known so that for stock-growing it is unexcelled.

The soil varies from a heavy clay to a light sandy loam and is capable of producing excellent crops.

The principal crops are small grain and vegetables, although good corn is grown in the valleys. The wheat, oat, rye and barley are all of unusually fine quality and command the highest market prices.

The water is pure and refreshing and is found in abundance in all parts of the county.

The county is practically out of debt and has over forty-five miles of railroad within its borders, has a good brick court house and the necessary fixtures for running the county and there has never been one dollar of county bonds issued and hence taxes will be low.

The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroad crosses Sioux county from east to west and the B. & M. has about fifteen miles of its line in the northeast part of the county.

The climate is more pleasant than that of the eastern portion of Nebraska. There is still

OVER 800,000 ACRES

of land in Sioux county yet open to homestead entry. It is better land and more desirably located than that for which such rushes are made on the opening of a reservation. There is no railroad land in the county and for that reason its settlement has been slow for no special effort to get settlers was made, as was done in the early days of the settlement of the eastern part of the state.

Good deeded land can be purchased at reasonable rates with government land adjoining so that a person who wants more than one quarter section can obtain it if he has a little means.

There are about 1,500 people in the county and there is room for thousands more. Harrison is the county seat and is situated on the F. E. & M. V. railroad, and is as good a town as the thinly settled country demands.

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All who desire to get a homestead or buy land cheap are invited to come and see the country for themselves and judge of its merits. Homesteads will not be obtainable much longer and if you want to use your right and get 160 acres of land from Uncle Sam free it is time you were about it.

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JUDICIARY: A. M. Post, Chief Justice, Columbus; T. O. C. Harrison, Asst. Judge, Grand Island; T. L. Norval, Associate Judge, Newell; D. A. Campbell, Clerk and Reporter, Lincoln.

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT: M. P. Kirkland, Judge, O'Neill; W. H. Westover, " Rushville; M. J. Blewett, " Clark, Harrison.

COUNTY OFFICERS: Robert Wilson, County Judge; M. J. Blewett, " Clerk; Chas. Blende, " Treasurer; W. H. Davis, " Supt. Public Instruction; D. Bartley, " Sheriff; J. E. Phinney, " Coroner; S. L. Ellis, " Surveyor; M. J. Blewett, " Clerk of District Court; Grant Smith, " County Attorney.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Frank Tinkham, Chairman, 1st District; J. J. Weber, " 2d " ; R. F. Johnson, " 3d " .

LEGISLATIVE: H. G. Stewart, Senator, Dist. No. 14, Crawford; W. Dempsey, Rep., Dist. No. 14, Hamilton.

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TERMS OF COURT: District Court, At Harrison, commences March 23d and November 17th; County Court, At Harrison, commences first Monday of each month.

CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES: Methodist Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 11:30; W. H. Davis, Superintendent; J. E. Marseller, Secretary.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD: Harrison Camp, No. 55, meets on each alternate Wednesday evening; W. H. Davis, Clerk; W. L. Hoyt, Gen. Com.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA: Meets each alternate Saturday evening at 8 o'clock; A. R. JGW, V. C.; J. W. Smith, Clerk.

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