The Sioux County Journal.

[ESTABLISHED 1888.]

Subscription Price, $2.00

OFFICIAL PAPER OF SIOUX COUNTY.

L. J. Simmons, - - Editor.

Entered at the Harrison post office as second class matter.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1897.

Last week the Crawford *Tribune* entered upon the tenth year of its existence and in speaking of it Col. Ketchum takes occasion to remark that no paper was ever more cordially hated by schemers and rascals, and he adds a list of twenty-one people who have attempted to run an opposition paper and fell—a good proof that those who lend themselves as a tool to advance schemes of others meet with a common fate—failure.

It is hoped that the legislature will make provision to pay the bounty on sugar beets and chicory which has been earned. A number of bills have been introduced for the repeal of the law, and it is safe to say that no bounty will be provided at this session for the future, but the contracts were made last year with the understanding that the bounty would be paid and the state cannot afford to avoid keeping its promises by taking advantage of a technicality.

Among the bills which have been introduced by Representative Sheldon is one for amending the constitution so as to apply the Initiative and Referendum. Should the bill pass and the proposed amendment receive the requisite number of votes at the election in 1898 a great change would be made in the law-making methods, but as it cannot be made effective in less than two years there is plenty of time for looking it up. A bill for the repeal of the Russian thistle law will meet the approval of all, for it is as useless as the anti-treat law which has encumbered the Statutes for a number of years. The bill which is of the most importance to this part of the state which he has introduced is one which provides that a person offering dressed beef for sale shall have the hide of the animal with the meat in order that the purchasers may know the brand of the animal. Such a law would do much to check the rustling of beef, and while it would put honest men who sell dressed beef to a little trouble it would be of great benefit to them as it would prevent them from having to compete with the rustlers in the market, and it would protect the stock owner from the raids of the rustlers. The law would cause no trouble to the people in the eastern part of the state as the fact that the cattle are not branded there would render the law inoperative. The bill ought to go through without opposition if it is presented properly.

The twenty-fifth annual session of the Nebraska State Press Association at Grand Island last week was one of the most largely attended and most interesting and instructive sessions ever held. Some years ago the main object of the meetings seem to be to afford one set of men to enjoy (and sometime abuse) the hospitality of the local committee of the city in which the meeting was held, for another set to arrange for an excursion to some distant point, and still another set to use the organization to some extent in a political way. But all that is changed. The bummers have gone the way of their kind in any profession and have either dropped out of the ranks or stay at home. The excursion-seekers are still on hand but have come to be men who work hard and seek needed rest in such a trip, while every partical of politics has been eliminated from the organization so that now the representatives of the g. o. p., the fusion pops, the middle-of-the-road pops, the silver democrats, the gold democrats, and the pop-democrats, meet on common ground and the meeting last week contained as many progressive, brainy men as could be gathered from the ranks of any profession in the state, and they met for the purpose of becoming still more proficient in their profession. The program was prepared with such view and the papers read and the discussions which followed showed the interest taken and also indicated the sturdy manhood of those engaged in newspaper work who were present, and demonstrated that the individual who is in the business as the catspaw of some more powerful, must get in position to stand on his own merits and not the part of a man if he hopes to be considered as a newspaper man, for the quack newspaper, the quack doctor and quack lawyer all belong in the same class, and must sink to the same level. Great credit for the success of the meeting at Grand Island is due to the retiring president, W. E. Dayton, of York, and Secretary F. N Merwin, of Beaver City, and for the cordial reception and delightful social features those who attended will ever remember the local press committee and people of Grand Island. For the ensuing year F. M. Kimmell, of McCook, was elected president, and F. N. Merwin, of Beaver City, was re-elected secretary and treasurer. The next annual meeting will be held at Lincoln.

Resigned in a Huff.

On last Wednesday afternoon B. F. Johnson tendered his resignation as county commissioner for the third commissioner district to County Clerk Blewett, and the same has been accepted and a successor will be appointed by the county clerk, county treasurer and county judge, but as yet no one has been selected.

For more than a year past there has been more or less friction between Mr. Johnson and some of the other officials and the feeling culminated in his resigning over the making THE SIOUX COUNTY JOURNAL the official paper of the county for the year 1897. Had Commissioners Weber and Tinkham followed the example set by the sheriff, the county judge and the county superintendent and disregarded their official oath and ignored the law, and joined Mr. Johnson in taking from THE JOURNAL that to which it was legally entitled and attempted to give it to Mr. Johnson's pet, who was not legally qualified to receive it, the chances are that no vacancy would now exist on the board of commissioners.

The law on the point is as follows and is certainly plain enough so that even those county officials who have gone contrary to it cannot plead as an excuse that they could not understand it:

"SECTION 2872.—That no newspaper shall be considered a legal newspaper for the publication of legal and other official notices unless the same shall have a bona fide circulation of at least 200 copies weekly, and shall have been published within the county for 52 successive weeks prior to the publication of such notices, and be printed in whole or in part in an office maintained at the place of publication.

"SECTION 2873.—That all legal and other official notices shall be published in a legal newspaper as defined in Section 1 (2872) of this act, and that the affidavit of publication shall state that said newspaper is a legal newspaper, which affidavit shall be prima facie evidence of that fact."

With such a law as that the commissioners could not legally do otherwise than did Messrs. Tinkham and Weber for the publisher of no paper but THE JOURNAL in Sioux county can truthfully make the affidavit required by law for several months to come. It is true that legal notices have been published in another paper and at the last term of the district court Judge Westover allowed decrees in foreclosure on such publication, but it is safe to say that the proof of publication was not read by the court, and at the next term of the district court the presiding Judge will be asked to confirm sheriff's sale on a notice the proof of which does not conform to the law quoted above, and if such acts do not indicate a conspiracy by the attorney, the sheriff and the publisher who made the affidavit to defeat the law and deceive the court it is hard to conceive what a conspiracy is, and in the cases of the county judge and the county superintendent there is no excuse. Considering the law quoted above and the facts in the case, the people can decide whether the individuals whom they elected to office and who have knowingly and wilfully gone contrary to the law are honest men, knaves or fools. On that decision rests the verdict of the public on the action of Messrs. Weber and Tinkham. If the people want officials to disregard the law those commissioners are open to censure, but if the people want the affairs of the county conducted according to law the two commissioners are to be commended.

The readers of THE JOURNAL know that in the past Mr. Weber and the writer have differed widely on the application of points of law, and the same difference still exists, but when the law is plain no one can accuse that officer of wilfully violating it.

It may not be out of place at this time to give the readers of THE JOURNAL a little information as to the causes which led up to the resignation of Mr. Johnson. Something over a year ago a few persons, lured by some successes achieved concluded that they could run Sioux county, but like all little rings that have attempted the same scheme in the past, it was recognized that they would have to do up THE JOURNAL. To accomplish this a tool was found in an individual who by all rules of manhood and political ethics owed allegience to THE JOURNAL, and by playing upon the prejudices of people and with the assistance of officials who seem to have more desire to vent a little personal spite than to comply with the law, they hoped to gain their point, but some honest men are in office in Sioux county and the scheme failed and THE JOURNAL continues to be the official paper and the heathen rage.

In the make-up of the committees of the house of representatives the northwest fared very well. Col. Sheldon is chairman of the committee on Public Lands and Buildings, which is an important one, and is a member of the following committees: Finance, Ways and Means; Township and County Boundaries; Privileges and Elections; Rules; Apportionment; Public Printing; Irrigation. The matters which will be in the hands of those committees will be of vast importance to the state and THE JOURNAL believes that when the real work of the session comes Mr. Sheldon will drop the partisan bickerings which he displayed in the opening days of the session and display in his work the ability and broad-mindedness which he is known to possess, and by that course accomplish much for the state, and especially for the part of the state which he represents.

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