

THE PEOPLE'S Wishes Must Be Respected!

THE BUSINESS MEN AND CITIZENS OF HEMINGFORD RESOLVE ENMASSE THAT THEY WILL STAND STAUNCH AND TRUE WITH THE PEOPLE, AND FOR THE PEOPLE, IN RESISTING A FEW TIN-HORN POLITICIANS IN THEIR MAD EFFORT TO PILE UP TAXES ON THE PEOPLE BY THE REMOVAL OF THE COUNTY SEAT TO A REMOTE CORNER OF THE COUNTY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPREME CONTROL IN POLITICS AND DICTATING THE DESTINY OF THE PEOPLE AND THEREBY GRINDING THE PEOPLE UNDER THE IRON HEEL OF A GIGANTIC MONOPOLY WITHIN THE BORDERS OF OUR COUNTY, ORGANIZED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FEW AND AGAINST THE HONEST TILLER OF THE SOIL AND THE TRUE OWNERS OF THE COUNTY.

Flushed with apparent success by the results of the recent county election and insanely imagining that Alliance constitutes the universe, a few of the would be dictators of the business of Box Butte county have commenced to agitate the removal of the county seat to that place. Indications are that they are proceeding under the impression that Hemingford, and the citizenship of Hemingford are hibernating or are absolutely dead, but if the meeting held at the court house Monday evening is an indication, our friends at Alliance will find this the most ferocious dead place they have ever undertaken to absorb. Hon. A. L. Sharrock of Edgemont circulated among our citizens Monday and it was decided to call a meeting at half past seven. Promptly on time one hundred enthusiastic voters were assembled in the court room and were called to order by A. Sherwood who was elected chairman, with I. E. Tash secretary. Mr. Sharrock addressed the meeting and with a copy of the resolutions, passed by the men in Alliance who are anxious to increase the burden of the already overburdened tax-payers of the county, as his text, stated the object of his visit and what the people who back him are ready to do. He stated "that surely we need not be ashamed of the business for which we are assembled. That Alliance was trying to take an unfair advantage of existing circumstances and force this question upon the county at a time when many of its citizens are temporarily absent, and is only more firmly establishing her already unenviable reputation of "hoggishness" by trying to gobble up everything in sight whether by fair means or foul. He read the resolution they had passed saying that "nothing but honorable means would be pursued," and

said that a man who begins to cry "honesty" before he is accused of being dishonest is a good subject to be carefully watched." (Every man in the county knows how "honest" Alliance is in all their elections.) Mr. Sharrock was followed by a dozen men anxious to be heard in their zeal for the good of Hemingford as well as every taxpayer in the county. The question, as to whether or not the petitions now being circulated to call a special election, should be opposed was fully discussed pro and con and the universal opinion that no move in that direction should be taken prevailed. The proposition was advanced that Alliance was circulating the story that many of the leading men of Hemingford favored a removal of the county seat, but any such idea must surely have melted into nothingness, when, chairman Sherwood asked "how many in the room favored Hemingford and would pull off their coats and work until the last vote was cast?" and a hundred men (every one in the room) bounced to their feet, and pounded the air as vociferously as Judge Noleman did in the celebrated mandamus case, against the Alliance school board. It was then decided that the chairman should appoint twenty men who would select an executive committee of five and the meeting took a recess and smoked good cigars furnished by A. S. Sharrock who has a heart in the right place. The executive committee elected consists of: J. K. Neal, E. A. Hall, H. B. Austin, I. E. Tash, and John O'Keefe, and if the Alliance "shysters" and "petifoggers" even imagine that they are going to even get a start towards moving the county capital, we would advise them to get up early and work late, because Hemingford is "in it" and is there to stay. Before adjourning the resolution which head this article were adopted with a "whoop" that would have done credit to a political convention although there may be personal differences, political warfare, and religion preferences in Hemingford and vicinity, as always exists in every community, there is one thing sure and that is that on the question now before us there is not the slightest division and as one man we will oppose and bitterly oppose too, any attempt to increase the burdens of the tax-payers in Box Butte County one cent, or the effort of Alliance to absorb us because they think they have the power to do so.

Logical Argument.

The meeting held at Alliance to move the county seat from Hemingford to Alliance is one of the events which happens every so often in western counties when the spirit of change at all hazards is dominant amongst a few of the citizens of some town that wishes to achieve notoriety at the expense of the residents of the county. The removal of the recognized county seat from one place to another is always an expensive experiment but this is not borne by the ones who raise the question. In nine cases out of ten the ones most interested in getting the war started are persons who are not property holders themselves and seldom are prompt taxpayers even if they pay any at all. Look at the men engineering this fight, scan their tax business and see if the large majority of them are not on the delinquent list for what small taxes they do pay. These are the ones that are always in the

van to move a county seat; with nothing to lose they will put up bill of expense after bill of expense, for the taxpayers of the county to liquidate without a thought of the hardships entailed on the ones having honor enough to pay their taxes but who are struggling against adverse fortune in endeavoring to fight the elements and prevail on them to give them crops with which to sustain themselves and their stock.

The expense of this fight is one that at this time will bear heavily on the tax payer, with the past crop failure and the lack of rain fall this fall and winter seems as if instead of adding a bill of expense to the county and thus decreasing the purchasing power of the county's warrants the county commissioners could find some way to lessen the taxes and add to the county's credit.

This removal outside of a few petifoggers in Alliance is one that has no show of reason or right. Situated in the center of the county as is Hemingford, the hardships entailed on the citizens of the outside precincts to come to the county seat is minimized whilst the removal to Alliance would increase it tenfold as it is in the south east corner of the county. But this is the least of the thoughts of Alliance men.

The statement of the Alliance men not to issue bonds to build an expensive courthouse is the biggest buncombe ever heard of. It was made as a bait to get J. R. Phelan in the fight for with his level headed business ideas he does not wish to see the county swamped with debts. But on the other hand what a fine protection play is made where the word "expenses" comes in. The length and breadth of the whole is subject to many changes; what one man deems expensive another man declares to be beggarly, and thus it would go on and the outcome would be on the same lines as the contest; Alliance wants the earth with a fence around it and would plunge the county into debt for a fine court house with an elastic expense bill attached just to keep the prestige of the town up "don't yer know." Box Butte has a court house already, no rent to pay, everything free and the tax payers have not a thought about rent of offices and the expenses that are entailed in keeping up a building such as Alliance would give.

Taxpayers in Box Butte, the question simmers down to lower or higher taxation. The expense of the election will be nominal compared to the constant drain on the pockets of taxpayers to keep up the business at Alliance. Court house rents are always high, bonds to build court houses have to be paid and the farmers who are struggling to get along, do the paying. The city tax lists published every year show how taxes are paid by their inhabitants. The farmer is the sinew of the county and it is on him that the burden falls; he has to shoulder the expensive outlay for elegantly furnished offices and the long train of dollar items that will follow the county seat to Alliance. As affairs are at present, Box Butte has all the necessary appurtenances for running the business affairs of the county at Hemingford and the county commissioners would do well to look to it that the present status of Hemingford for county seat should be kept up.

The removal of the county seat means the throwing away of our \$4,000 court house, \$1,200 vault, and costs of election, which would amount to upwards of \$6,000 besides burdening the taxpayers with bonds from which they would never recover. Look at our neighbor Dawes county.

THE TYRANNY Still in Practice!

The Brutal Kings Are Among Us.

WE REBEL

In reading the primitive history of man as we find it recorded from the days of Adam down to almost the beginning of the 19th century, the people then upon the earth were subjected to the tyranny of barbarous kings and potentates civilly and religiously in fact, the liberty of man and more especially the poor peasant, was extremely limited. All through those dark ages people rebelled against the yoke of tyranny placed upon their shoulders, when it became unbearable, and the consequence was that blood flowed freely and entire cities were swept from the face of the earth and the dead bodies of the brutal kings laid at the foot of the ruins of their thrones that had crumbled and fallen in one day before the conquering arms of the masses yet a new potentate simply repeated the whole tyranny and thus the world rolled through centuries of rebellion, blood and carnage until, we might say, the American Republic was established which heralded to the world an assurance of the greatest liberty ever accorded to man. For over one hundred years the American Government has flourished the admiration of the whole world, including its conquered enemy, Great Britain.

All went well until 1861 when our beloved country found itself in the throes of a monstrous civil war. Right there is where our troubles of today began and although we have thought ourselves a happily united country for thirty one years, the canker worm of poverty, dissension, centralization, combination and retraction has been slowly but surely eating holes in the body politic of our boasted liberties, as we find the politician and petifoggers dictating to our courts and the people, and are more tyrannical in using their power than the barbarous kings of centuries ago.

The city of Hemingford ever since its birth five years ago has been suffering through the tyrannical heel of politicians and county schemers, who know no law or will obey no law, except the law enacted by the sweet will of their manipulators. They have not only refused this city the natural courtesies it should have; but they have tried to ruin the reputation of our citizens for truth and veracity, by sending hundreds of lying reports stating that our people were deserting their homes and all moving to other quarters, to wreck the present county seat.

They have tried to poison the minds of our people with discontent in trying to build up their railroad hamlet at the expense of this city. They have filled our streets with liars traitors and destructive spreading poison. Our peaceably inclined city paid very little attention to the abuse of the

heartless. We have made no claim to any of their industries but now we call a halt.

The city of Hemingford has been placed on its own marrow bones by all civil authorities and last Monday night, it began active work on this matter. Overbearing tyranny cannot be endured for ever and we now propose to protect our homes.

A delegation of the Alliance "400" was in town Wednesday attending a little party before Judge Spacht. Ostensibly they were here to settle a little game of "free love" among themselves and incidentally to show forth to the good people of Hemingford a powerful inducement for the removal of the county seat to Alliance.

Johnson Contests.

On Wednesday B. E. Johnson commenced contest proceedings against F. M. Phelps' right to the clerkship of Box Butte county. Mr. Johnson contests on grounds of illegal voting and fraudulent counting in Alliance.

From the Dailies.

(Omaha Bee.)
At a large and enthusiastic meeting of the taxpayers of Box Butte county at Hemingford they unanimously agreed to stand solid against the removal of the county seat from Hemingford to Alliance, and denounced in no uncertain terms any proposition the object of which would add additional taxes to the taxpayers of this county.

(Lincoln Journal.)

HEMINGFORD, Neb., Nov. 25.—Box Butte county will soon be engaged in a county seat struggle. Alliance is circulating a petition to call a special election. The people of Hemingford held a rousing meeting and determined to put up a winning fight to retain the county seat, and in this they claim they will have the assistance of the taxpayers of the county, who are interested in keeping taxation down to the minimum, regardless of locality.

(World-Herald.)

Hemingford, Neb. Nov. 25.—A hot county seat fight is on in this county brought about by an effort of Alliance to move the county capital from this place to Alliance. Petitions are already in circulation, and a large and enthusiastic meeting was held tonight to organize for the fight.

Hon. A. L. Sharrock, mayor of Edgemont, and a representative of the Interstate Town Site, company, owner of the Hemingford town site, is on the ground, and a determined resistance will be made to the removal and expense that would follow.

The general belief is that should the change be made the county will of necessity be bonded for county buildings and other necessary expenses. The vote will be taken some time in February. An executive committee consisting of J. K. Neal, H. B. Austin, I. E. Tash, J. O'Keefe, and E. A. Hall was elected tonight to organize the county.

Alliance Lawyers and Politicians vs. The Tax-payers of Box Butte County.

The last issue of the Alliance Guide reveals the fact that her "representative business men" are again preparing to mount the ringboned, spavined and short-winded old hobby horse of County Seat removal. One would think that the small portion of Alliance population who favor the renewed agitation of this question, would have learned by past experience that the majority of the people of Box Butte County are entirely satisfied with their present County Seat—Hemingford. A contest was had, fair on Hemingford's side, though undeniable attempts at fraudulent practices were made by Al-

liance's partisans. It was decided that Hemingford be the county seat of Box Butte county.

We do not deny that if Alliance were the County Seat it would be more convenient for a few Alliance lawyers. But is the desire of the majority of the people of Box Butte County to be set aside for the convenience of a few attorneys and some politicians to whom an agitation of this kind offers an opportunity for cheap notoriety?

Hemingford is in the center of the county. The interests of the major part of the people of the County demand that Hemingford remain the County Seat. The town of Hemingford has presented to the County a fine Court House. There is thus no expense to the county on that score. The "representative business men" passed a resolution declaring that if the county seat be removed to Alliance, it was not the intention to issue bonds to build an expensive Court House.

In the first place we would like to inquire, by what authority these "representative business men" pretend to guide the destinies of Box Butte County—to state what the County will or will not do?

Furthermore, though their declaration be true, what difference would it make to the tax-payers of the county whether they pay taxes to keep up the interest on bonds or pay rent for county offices, which the abandonment of the present Court House at Hemingford would necessitate? The election which it is proposed to have would entail an expense of upwards of a thousand dollars. In these hard times the people should think twice before burdening themselves with this additional indebtedness. But we have no fear that this matter will be more than "a tempest in a tea-pot." The West has had enough of these senseless county seat fights, whereby some unwisely ambitious town seeks to put aside the will of the people of the county for its personal advantage.

Alliance has the rail road round house and machine shops to which it is justly entitled; Hemingford has the county seat which by virtue of its location and choice of the people, it should remain in undisputed possession of. There should be no animosity between the two towns. Let us live in peace and harmony allowing this county seat matter to be only a memory of the past.

(From the Crawford Tribune.)

The Tribune, in the interest of fair play gives room in its columns for the above sensible article from the Hemingford HERALD. Alliance has a set of business men than whom there is not in any town in the northwest a more pushing, progressive and enterprising, and the Tribune believes that it will never be recorded in the history of Box Butte county that they were so lost to that sense of manhood, justice and fairness which has heretofore characterized all their efforts to have their town take front rank among the cities of Northwest Nebraska, as to cast their vote in favor of taxing the people of the entire county in order that a few of her citizens might reap the paltry benefit to be derived from rent of rooms for county offices in case of the removal of the county seat; and it would be an everlasting blotch upon the as yet untarnished fame of our sister city where her "representative business men" tolerate it. Far better would it be for all of the few who are endeavoring to stir up this county seat question be induced to concentrate their ef-

(Concluded on last page.)