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A COMPARISON

BETWEEN BOX BUTTE AND DAWES COUNTY—SHOULD ALLIANCE SUCCEED IN GETTING THE COUNTY SEAT AND BE DOMINATED BY A POLITICAL RING THEN THERE WILL BE NO COMPARISON.

That history repeats itself is a self evident fact, and to the thinking mind needs no demonstration, but very often enormous and destructive evils are allowed to creep into governments, local, state and national, without apparent thought on the part of those upon whom the burden eventually falls with the severest weight and the most galling oppression. Ever since the creation of the world history tells us that in places where a large number of people are congregated in one place and under one government that corruption has dominated local authority, to the detriment and degradation of the masses of the people. If examples were necessary to prove this assertion we would ask the reader to refer his memory to the rottenness and debauchery in local government unearthed in New York City by Dr. Parkhurst and others during the past two years. Look at affairs in our own city of Omaha, and to come still nearer home let us compare our present condition with that of the county north of us, Mother Dawes, whose government has been conducted by a ring of Chadron politicians since the organization of the county. Chadron is a town about the size of Alliance, and makes pretensions of being a metropolitan city, and of course must put on aristocratic airs, hence they at once bonded themselves and the county for \$30,000 to build a court house. In the course of a year or so the extravagance of metropolitan humbuggery had so involved the finances that the unsuspecting people were induced to vote \$30,000 funding bonds, and so it has gone until the present time. The people over there are just beginning to awake to their folly. The majority of the men who have engineered this business pay no taxes in support of the useless extravagances they incur. Every man who owns a quarter section of land in that county is today compelled to pay from \$14 to \$22 taxes upon it each year, while just across the line in Box Butte county, upon the same kind of land and with the same improvements, taxes are from \$7 to \$9 per quarter. Who can gainsay the fact that the men who have had charge of the government of these counties are not responsible for things as we find them today, to the everlasting shame of the one and the unpaid and unpayable credit of the other. The reader may inquire what is the object of all this, and let us say right here that Alliance, or rather a "ring" of Alliance politicians, who have but little or no interest in the welfare of anyone but themselves (the records show that the great majority of the prime movers in the action to move the county seat are delinquent in the payment of their taxes from three to six years) are now exerting every effort to bring about the same state of affairs in this county that we have noted above. The declaration on the part of Alliance that no expense will be incurred, that no bonds

will be voted, that they simply want to abide the will of the people, is an insult and a slander upon the intelligence of the citizenship of Box Butte county. Whom will this proposed removal of the county seat benefit? Let every voter ask himself this question, and then find an answer if he can in the smooth talk of a political shyster from the hotbed of moral and political corruption that already exists in the city of Alliance. To our mind the right thing to do is to stop right now, and not force upon ourselves the heavy expense of an extra election, at a time when there are people in the county, and plenty of them, too, who will suffer before the winter is over for the actual necessities of life.

An Answer to Alliance's False Pretenses.

At a time when after years of economy and strict adherence to business rules, to rid our county of debt, and at a time when the county officials have, through their faithful discharge of duty to the people of this county, almost achieved the object they have sought to accomplish these many years—years of drouth, crop failure, business depression and financial stringency—a self-appointed class of individuals, across the bloody chasm, in that wicked hamlet of Alliance, have conceived the idea of removing the county seat for their own special benefit, and they propose to remove it right away, without much ceremony or desire to consult the wishes and interests of the people of the county.

Our county is at present almost out of debt, our warrants are worth their face in the markets of the world. We have a court house plenty good enough to transact all the business of this county in for the next fifteen or twenty years, located at the most central and convenient town in the county. It can be reached by all the people of the county at less expense of travel than from any other point to which it might be removed, especially if relocated at Alliance. We have all the necessary furniture and fixtures and paraphernalia that is needed for the convenience of the officers, and an abundance of room for all concerned to do the business of the county. This precocious idea of attempting to remove the county seat in the face of the foregoing facts, and at a time when the majority of the people of the county are perfectly satisfied with its present location, is an unwarrantable proceeding, rarely ever heard of in the history of any county, whose affairs have been as wisely and judicially administered as have the affairs of this county during past years. Removal of the county seat at the present time is a luxury which the people can well deny themselves, and one which the greater majority of them do not care to assume in the face of hard times. Let us see. Removal of the county seat would mean a loss of the block of lots upon which the court house stands, a loss of the court house, a loss of all the expenses of carrying on the elections. When once removed the fine work would then really begin. Rent would begin, unless the generous people of Alliance would give the county the ineffable pleasure of doing business like Henry Hier, at his office on the curbstone in Alliance. Rent at Alliance for all the offices would not fall far short of \$1,800, which in ten years would amount

to \$18,000, all of which can be saved by using our own property, now located at Hemingford. The county seat once removed to Alliance, there would soon be started a combined effort to shape public opinion in favor of building a court house jail, for the habitation of some of the "400," and away would go a big, gold-bearing bond as another luxury for the people of Box Butte county, because no other class of bonds would sell in the eastern market.

Some argue that a bond on the county would not be such a bad thing after all. It would be an easy way of staving off a debt for other people to pay, while we would be reaping the immediate benefits, in the way of convenience and luxuries, which we might as well enjoy, because life is short. All well informed people will agree that soon after a bond has been fastened upon a county a fund has to be created by levying a special tax each year for that purpose, to pay off the bonds when they come due. This fund will lie idle for many years, during all of which time the people will be paying interest in gold on their gold bearing bonds, and they are in reality not staving off their debt, for their posterity or other people must pay.

In justice to our people, every citizen of the county should ponder well, the subject of a proposed removal of the county seat, and take no part in a scheme to favor a few self chosen individuals, to the detriment of the many who believe in letting well enough alone.

Grains of Gold.

The only solid understanding which a man can have concerning commerce, the arts, or more serious knowledge, must come from the depths of his own opinion. Hardship is the native soil of manhood. "If," said Franklin, "you would have a faithful servant, and one that you like, serve yourself." Fortune prefers a lover to a master, and submits with impatience to control, but he that woos her will seldom court her in vain. We should enjoy our fortune when good, have patience when reverse come, and never employ violent remedies except in case of necessity. To have freedom is only to have that which is absolutely necessary to enable us to be what we ought to be, and to possess what justly belongs to us, therefore to maintain our rights and protect the producers of wealth—the farmers—from foolish and unnecessary taxation we should cast a unanimous vote to keep the county seat at Hemingford. J. C. McCORLE.

Marsland Items.

Mayor Sharrock of Edgemont was in the city Monday, in the interests of the Inter-State Townsite company.

C. C. Clark of Bedford, S. D., visited his brother, A. M., this week.

The townsite company that own the site here also own Hemingford and are as much interested in the success of that town as they are of this. The people up here are warm supporters of Hemingford for the county seat, as they thoroughly understand that our interests are identical. Box Butte people in the vicinity of Marsland will work earnestly for Hemingford, as well as the rest of the voters in the north half of the county. In fact the whole population up here is a unit upon the question, and it will be impossible for Alliance "boomers" to ever get enough signers to call an election.

Berea Scrapings.

What was the attraction, Tom? The Sunday School people intend to have a Christmas tree.

Quite an interesting time at Sunday School last Sunday.

The editor in chief of this journal was visiting in Berea last Monday.

The county seat question is the topic of the day, and all are in favor of letting it remain where it is, at present, so Alliance had better "drop that oyster."

The prospect for a good crop next year is excellent, as there is more snow on the ground now than there has been for years, and the indications are that we will have some more in the near future. At all events the drouth is broken, and with plenty of moisture Box Butte can't be beat for good crops.

A few selfish lawyers of Alliance are again attempting to revive the question, which is considered as definitely settled by the majority of the people of this county. They must have an exceedingly poor opinion of the intelligence of those to whom they propose to present their arguments on the county seat removal matter. In their recent meeting it will be recalled that they declared it was not intended that bonds be voted to erect a court house. This resolution reminds one of the puppet figures which traveling show men used to carry years ago. They consisted of two figures, fastened back to back, in such a way that when looked at from either side they appeared to be but one. This resolution is explained to the people of Alliance as meaning that the town will not issue bonds to build the court house, but that the county will. To the people outside of Alliance the other side of this double-faced proposition is turned. It is announced that the meaning of the resolution is that the county will not be asked to issue bonds, but that the town of Alliance will defray the expenses of erecting a new court house. But the taxpayers of Box Butte county may be sure that these Alliance lawyers will nevertheless do all in their power to force the county to issue bonds, from which the town will derive all the benefit. They dare not advocate the issuing of bonds by the town of Alliance, for the reason that a majority of her people would very sensibly refuse to support the county seat removal proposition, if they thought they would have to bear the undeniable burden. They well know that the "game is not worth the candle."

As for removing the present court house building from Hemingford to Alliance—that is impossible—the deed of gift to the county precludes it.

To remove the county seat from Hemingford to Alliance requires a three-fifths vote for the latter town. When the first fight took place Alliance failed, and she has never polled as many votes as then, conclusive proof of the padded returns. How then can Alliance hope for success, when three-fifths of the total vote of the county is necessary? It is a "forlorn hope."

An injustice to the people of Box Butte county is about to be perpetrated, in compelling them to foot the heavy expenses of an election, which, after it is over, will not have changed the present situation. The farmers as well as the town people need not be reminded that we are yet experiencing hard times. Crops are none too good, and we cannot afford the expensive luxury of this election. Let the voters of Box Butte county, when approached, forcibly express their opposition to this agitation of the pernicious scheme of county seat removal!

The taxpayers of Box Butte county, from an Alliance standpoint, are to "hold the sack," while the gang of unscrupulous politicians of that city get the best of the county's funds. This will be strenuously denied by that crowd, who are at present posing as county benefactors. It was mentioned in the Alliance meeting that the buildings necessary for court house and county offices can be rented in Alliance for less than it takes to keep the court house at Hemingford in repairs. If this is a fact then Alliance is too poor a town to have a county seat of any county, but it is not the truth, and the taxpayers will find out that it was political gushing, done before election as an attempted vote getter, and shows what a small percentage of good, practical, horse sense the Alliance people give the taxpayers credit for. Alliance has her round house, and with it the railroad vote, and this is the key note to the whole affair. They think that they have the big vote, and on that ground want the county seat. The benefit to Alliance from a pecuniary point will not be great. To rent a few rooms for court house and office purposes and put the residents of Box Butte county to all the expense of traveling from all corners of the county except the southeast is something that the fair-minded people of the city should inquire into before pledging their votes to the railroad town. To an outsider it is purely a scheme gotten up by someone in Alliance who has some buildings, which, owing to the late crop failures in the county, he is unable to rent, and desires to saddle the county with the rent for them. A building suitable for court house and county offices is one that is not built every day, in fact the plans have to be perfected, with the uses of the offices and their locations, with regard to dispatch in the transaction of the business of the county. Where in Alliance is there such a building? They promise rooms; any little place in the state could promise the same. In the fulfillment of their promises is when the taxpayers will find the sharp end of the forked stick now being prepared in Alliance. If the county seat is moved rooms will probably be furnished. That is not doubted for a minute, but the officials of the county, when they are in the offices for business, and the unfitnes of the place comes to them as forcibly as it necessarily must, from the plain fact of there being no place in Alliance suitable, then the philanthropic citizens will have their inning: "If you don't like what we furnish we will build you the necessary place, according to plans that you can draw yourselves. It would be cheaper to build than to move the county seat again. Advertise for bids for a fine court house; the county must have buildings suitable to its importance." Here is where Alliance is counting on getting hold of the county funds, and when this time comes, if it ever does, and it will only be by the taxpayers forgetting every business principle ever learned by them. Then the cry will go up on high: "God help the taxpayers, for we cannot."

Alliance is not in this struggle for her health, or the benefit of Box Butte county. All the fine sayings of her executive committee are weighed before being uttered, every one of them when made is a play on the boards, giving them a wide scope of action; grand stand plays are as plentiful with them as bugs in June, but the taxpayers can form their ideas of the weight of the

THIS PAPER IS FREE. READ AND HAND TO YOUR NEIGHBOR.

promises made by Alliance men from their past life. History repeats itself; and by the past we must judge the future of the taxpayers of Box Butte county. Keep these sentences in mind, and then scan carefully the actions of Alliance in times past, and a very fair estimate can be made of the promises now being scattered broadcast. Again, by past actions of people their characters for veracity in the future can be counted on. Think well, taxpayers of this county, before you allow your vote to be pledged for Alliance. Scan the record of the promisers, and your votes will sure be for Hemingford for the county seat.

On one side is a court house, vault, offices, and all the accouters that go to make up an elegant county seat, all free. On the other—what is there? And echo has to answer "what?" The bare promises of a set of men who for the aggrandizement of their city are prepared to plunge the county into a debt of at least \$1,500 for election purposes, and the Lord only knows what else afterwards, on the plea that they can rent offices cheaply in Alliance for county purposes. The intended fraud on the taxpayers has not even far enough to hide the sharp claws underneath. Taxpayers and county commissioners think well before you act, for the people of Box Butte county, gentle in peace, can become lions in war, and a day of retribution will surely come to the ones instrumental in this burdening of the county with indebtedness.

Our citizens are now in the fight, and are there to win. Use every means at hand, see every one, agitate the facts, show up the part of Alliance, and when the election is held Hemingford will be on top for good.

A "Shrewd" Business Man.

While in Alliance last month I had a talk with a "representative business man," who has resided there since the town started. He gave me to understand that Hemingford was the proper place for the county seat, but said: "You see it is to my interest to have it here, as I have property here, and if we could get the county seat I think there would be some suckers around, and I can unload my property, and I tell you, the first chance I get I am going to do it; but if I intended to hold my property I would want the county seat to stay where it is, because I pay all the taxes I can stand right now." Now then, are we as taxpayers and land owners going to vote for Alliance people to sell their real estate? No! let us keep down taxes and keep our county out of debt. We can cite to our neighbor Dawes county, where the Chadron ring bonded the county for a \$40,000 court house. They are now carrying \$100,000 bonds, and you can take 40 cents on the dollar for your county warrants, or nothing. I, for one, feel proud of Box Butte county. Let every voter take this matter into consideration, turn down the Alliance ring and keep down taxes. H. B. GREEN.

Mayor A. L. Sharrock of Edgemont spent two days in the city the first of the week circulating among the boys. The Inter-State Townsite company know a rustler when they find him, and Hemingford is extremely fortunate in having the backing it has in the fight now on hand. Mr. Sharrock is an organizer of rare ability, and is the right man in the right place to make our Alliance friends (?) "hide out."