

A FAILURE!

The Alliance Papers try to Mislead.

All We Want is Fairness on all Sides; the Truth and the Result will be Satisfactory.

"Stop Thief" has been the by-word of All Thieves Ever Since the Beginning of Time, but in This Instance it Won't Go.

TO THE VOTERS OF BOX BUTTE COUNTY:

The Alliance papers are out again in their usual mode of misrepresentation and trying in every way conceivable to poison the minds of the resident electors of Box Butte county, and casting slurs at our county board and keeping just as far from the truth as in their power lies.

Let us review some of the history of this campaign and see where honesty is found. The petition was circulated by Alliance and no remonstrance was ever offered until it appeared that fraud was being perpetrated. The petition was filed by the Alliance gang, and until it was filed we had no opportunity to investigate its validity. The petition had been sent by Mr. Hampton and others to procure signatures in Custer, S. D. There appeared on the petition names of parties who lived in Sheridan county; names had signed it; dead men had come from their graves to help them out, and good, true resident electors of Box Butte county had given them their signatures. All these facts were gleaned from the petition in less than four hours after it had been filed. We asked the board to give us a fair show to investigate the petition, as we were of the opinion it was not such a paper as should have been filed for the gigantic purpose for which it was intended. This privilege the Alliance gang flat-footedly denied us, and said to the commissioners nothing but "forthwith" would go with them. They did not say 10, 20, 30, 60 or 90 days will we give you, but "forthwith you must call the election. Don't give the people of Hemingford and the farmers any show, but forthwith and nothing but forthwith will go with us." While they asked for "forthwith" we asked the board to postpone further action until they could be satisfied that the petition was signed by RESIDENT ELECTORS equal in number to THREE-FIFTHS of the votes cast at the last general election, and not throw the county into a useless expense. This they did, and set the final hearing on the petition at their next regular meeting, which occurs in June, as there would then be no expense to the county of an extra session of the board. Now was that not fair? The Alliance gang said "no, it was not," and started mandamus proceedings before Judge Westover at Rushville, and in their petition took up their old war cry of "forthwith" and asked the judge to forthwith call the board together and order them forthwith to call an election. But the judge said: "No, boys, I can't do a thing for you; but I will order the board to meet on the 30th day of March and consider the petition, but not call an election without they are satisfied it is signed by three-fifths of the resident electors of Box Butte county." Now, while the judge interfered with the order of the board we found no objection to his orders, and consequently our rooster went up, and right he did, for the old word "forthwith" was again defeated.

Now those of you who have

felt there was "something rotten in Denmark," sit down and think this matter over calmly and see if we have not been asking only what is due us as free American citizens; and see if Alliance has not been adopting the methods of the brutal kings. Our motto is to "accord to all men their rights as free born American citizens."

Now the committee that examined the voluminous petition for about four hours found and named One Hundred and Thirty-three of the petitioners questionable, at least, and so made their affidavit. This committee did not, nor does it now, say they were entirely correct in every name they objected to; neither have these 133 names been stricken from the petition, nor will they be if they are found to be RESIDENT ELECTORS. Now the Alliance papers are trying to mislead the farmers by telling you these names were stricken off. They still appear, and will until it is certain that they are not bona fide qualified electors.

This is the history of the case up to date, and we challenge the Alliance papers to take up one single article of this statement and deny it.

The Alliance papers in their article headed "Don't Sign a Remonstrance" knew that their case was one that was carried to a culmination by the quick action of gas, an article of which the Alliance boomers have a plentiful supply always on hand, but in the light of reason the claws back of the fur are showing and the papers have to cover all the tracks and make herculean attempts to whip the signers of their petition into line and keep them there. The bubble has burst, and the talk about a petition carrying 1,000 names instead of the 815 in the old petition is only campaign talk. The petition to be acted upon is filed with the commissioners; the court has acted upon that petition and the specious talk that there 150 or 200 more people who have become Alliance converts since the fight began is pure fiction, but it is a stock in trade that the Alliance ring have in a large degree.

In reviewing the case since the inception of the county seat fight, we see the prophecies made some time ago rapidly taking shape. By a comparison of the taxation of Box Butte and Dawes counties it is found that in the former county the land taxes are \$7 to \$9 per quarter section, while in the latter they are from \$14 to \$22 per quarter section. These lands are exactly similar, the improvements are the same, the residents are brothers in humanity, yet this difference in taxation! Where does the large discrepancy come in? Just the county line. Dawes county had a county seat fight; bonds for a court house and county buildings amounting to \$30,000 were voted by the people. The holding of a majority of the votes gave the officials an idea that they had the resources of the United States back of them, and expenditures were lavish. In a short time \$30,000 funding bonds were voted and high tax is the result.

Farmers of Box Butte county, ponder over this statement. Think of the actions of the Alliance people in times past. Are they such as would make the farmers have confidence in the management of county affairs? Have you been used by the men in charge of this election fight as though you were men possessing the right to live and prosper? Has not the whole of their work been such as to keep your nose on the grindstone whilst they were living in luxury? Think of the mortgages in the hands of the bankers of Alliance held over your heads as a whip. All of

these things are for staid and thoughtful consideration. After this imagine, if possible, Alliance victorious in this fight—what would occur? At present, during the county seat fight, the merchants are rubbing the fur the right way. After the election, when there is nothing at stake they particularly desire your help to attain, what a change will occur! Alliance is a railroad town, and for the personal aggrandizement of a few of her citizens this fight has been inaugurated, and for what! the imaginary standing the name of county seat town would give it—at least that is what they say at present. After the election the name of a county seat town would appear as a misnomer without a court house that could be seen and appreciated by visitors. It could be used as an inducement for residents, and its glory and expensive ornamentation would be a matter of emulation. Now who would have to pay for this? The farmers, of course, who always pay their taxes, whilst the city men will take a stay of from three to five years. Of course they ridicule this idea now, pleading their honesty of purpose and scouting the idea of bonds, and make all kinds of promises (in the newspapers) about procuring offices at \$300 per year suitable for county uses. This is good as far as it goes, but the same class of "before election" talk was used in Dawes county, and Alliance people are no better than Chadron people; and with a three-fifths majority of the qualified electors on their side to what vagaries of expenditure would not the ring go? Dawes county high taxes would be prevalent in Box Butte county, and farmers would have to pay from \$6 to \$10 per year added taxes for the benefit of the ring of politicians in Alliance. This great outlay of money would be for court house purposes, and does not include the expense of a special election and the litigation which the Alliance people promise to throw on the county in case of the defeat of the petition.

Some of the leading lights in the county seat fight at Alliance have, since the contest began, and the non-payment of taxes by them has been made public, visited the county treasurer and paid four or five years' delinquent taxes, just to make the farmers think they have the good of the county at heart. If this fight had not come up they would still be standing the county off for this money. These are the men who are asking you to place the county seat of Box Butte county under their dominion.

The question simmers down to a simple statement, viz: The county seat at Hemingford as at present, nominal taxes and the affairs of the county conducted in an economic manner; the county seat removed to Alliance and the absence of any conveniences for the transaction of business making a big expenditure, and the farmers taxed as they are in Dawes county. Farmers, where are your interests? Merchants, how do the high taxes strike you? Money that would come into your tills put into buildings in Alliance, the county credit broken and a heavy debt hanging on you. If the Alliance ring moves the county seat by your efforts, they will have the collar around your necks and Dawes county's financial difficulties will come to Box Butte county as sure as the sun shines.

These facts are for the voters of Box Butte county to ponder. Make your decision, and then sign the remonstrance against the petition gotten up by the Alliance ring, who, by false, alluring promises, obtained the signatures appearing on the petition.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.