

# The Hemingford Herald.

VOL 2

HEMINGFORD, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1896.

NO. 6

## OUR ROOSTER



## GROWS FOR PROSPERITY.

Box Butte Ranks First in Agriculture and Stock Raising. A United Population is at Work.

## WARRANTS AT PAR

Because of the Wise Legislation of Our Commissioners and the Prompt Action of Our Farmers and Merchants.

## OUR RESOURCES GREAT.

Our Land is Rich, Our Crop Give Large Returns, Our Exhibits at the Fairs are First.

## UNITY OF ACTION.

Co-ordinated Work, Good Advertising and Encouragement to Visitors Will Make Box Butte County a Veritable Paradise.

At the meeting of the commissioners and tax payers of Box Butte county Monday and Tuesday of this week harmony prevailed and it was agreed that in view of all the conditions it would be to the best interests of all concerned to drop all matters in reference to county seat removal and by unanimous consent the order was made and Box Butte county stands united and great harmony prevails.

The march of western progress has been rapid during the last six years and the settlement of the lands in north-western Nebraska and southern South Dakota has truly been magical. The great Burlington system with its progressive and aggressive spirit, which no obstacles can daunt worked the change and to this cause more than any other can this be assigned. On the line of the Burlington and inclosing forty eight miles of their road, is the county of Box Butte, a county destined to carry the banner for Nebraska. A long range of undulating prairie covering thirty miles by thirty six miles with a black loamy soil capable of raising any serial known, forms this county. Its yield of every crop that has been raised has taken first place in competition with the counties of the state. Its varieties of grasses numbering between 50 and 60 different kinds capable of feeding an unlimited number of cattle and horses, its cattle taken from its ranges and put into actual competition with the corn fed beef of the eastern states and holding first place, give it a class of resources that is truly in the front rank.

The people who have settled in Box Butte county are scientific farmers bringing to their assistance, experience gained from farming in the east. Progressive to a high degree, with all the energy and grit that denotes true westerners, they go in for every thing that tends to build up their county. Their methods of mixed farming and stock raising, have given them a prestige that takes the fame of Box Butte county into all the markets of the United

States. They have their lands well filled and at the present time the outlook for farm produce for the coming season, is the brightest the county has ever seen. A larger acreage of small grain, beets, kafir corn and alfalfa, will make this county celebrated this year over any of her neighboring sisters and this fall the granaries and cellars of the farmers will be all filled to repletion with the fullness of the earth's bountiful given by propitious nature.

To keep the farmers in broad stuff, clothing and necessities of life and comfort, a class of merchants have formed themselves into co-teries, and built up cities for the easier handling of the material raised on these farms.

A glimpse of the stocks carried by these merchants will give an idea of the prosperity of the county. Anything of luxury and necessary use can be found in any of the cities and by the class of stocks carried by these merchants, a fair estimate is made of the progressiveness of their work. Flouring mills and elevators are erected along the line of the Burlington at convenient places, putting the Box Butte merchants and farmers in close touch with all the eastern markets, enabling the farmer to reap the benefit of an open market, and the merchant quick freight removals, helping him to keep his stock to the highest class and giving farmers choice of goods that in the states of Illinois and Iowa was impossible, when they were of the same age, and at present the people of Box Butte county can boast of having more progressive merchants than several counties in sister states of Iowa and Kansas.

In western counties where the growth of the county was as rapid as it has been in Box Butte county, enormous bonded indebtedness has been assumed. Several of the counties of Nebraska are now groaning under a burden of bonds that in case of the hard times prevailing during the last three years, has been terribly hard to bear. With the wise legislation of the Commissioners of Box Butte, backed by its level-headed settlers, these rocks and quicksands have been weathered, and with the glorious future, with almost assured heavy returns from their farms this year, the farmers and merchants can point with pride to their present record of having no particular debt on the county, warrants at par and not one cent of bonded indebtedness to pull down, with its heavy pressure the fortune of the inhabitants. To this fact, the push and energy everywhere in sight can be directly attributed, for with light taxation, the farmer can bank his farm returns knowing that there is no eastern syndicate clamoring for the interest on bonds which were used for some chimerical venture, got up by restless individuals with the mistaken idea that a big debt tends to increase the importance of the county in the eyes of eastern people. The lands of this county have been and are now receiving attention from residents of eastern states, who having farms whose every acre is valued closely to one hundred dollars, are closing out their realties and coming to Box Butte and taking up land. They use the surplus money for stock and commute their holdings, paying the government \$1.25 per acre for this land from which they can get as large returns as in their home states, and have the benefit of schools as good and often superior to those in the east. This is giving our county a forward impetus in every line of produce and stock raising, and a most desirable class of settlers, who are here to stay with the county and amass wealth.

The shipments from the county in the line of farm products and stock is large and shows at what a rate the county has increased in material wealth. In the following statement the difference in returns between the years of 1891 and 1895 are given, and the rates of increase are not nearly as large as will be those of 1895 and 1896 proportionately.

	1891.	1895.
Cattle.....	1,420 head,	3,300 h'd
Horses.....	60 "	650 "
Sheep.....	1,520 "	5,600 "
Hogs.....	—	4,000 "
Wheat.....	76,500 bu.	164,000 bu.
Corn.....	2,500 "	6,000 "
Oats.....	8,000 "	42,000 "
Rye.....	5,000 "	5,000 "
Flax.....	1,000 "	6,750 "
Hay.....	3,524 tons	8,964 ton

The large roller mills in the county are using up a large amount of the wheat of the county for breadstuffs which they are shipping to the neighboring market of the Black Hills.

The shipments of hay are falling short of the average increase of other shipments by increased home consumption.

The returns from the Land Office at Alliance, taken from the report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, was received lately and shows the business in Box Butte county compares favorably with any in the United States. There were made during the year, 367 homestead entries and 425 final proofs, being an excess of over five hundred of any other office in Nebraska. This Land office is the only one that paid the maximum salary of \$6,000 per year, and this is caused by the lands in the district being so much more favorable for the settler in every way to other localities. The Commissioner in his report stated that the larger portion in the district is watered by beautiful streams, hay and grass of luxuriant growth is on all sides, whilst there is everything handy that is calculated to build up fine homes and fine farms. One of the increasing markets for the produce of Box Butte county is found in the wonderfully rich Black Hills country whose future is the brightest of any mining country in the west. Every day new mines are being discovered, requiring more men to develop them. Reduction works are necessary for the ore output, and this needs an increased amount of labor. Like the nails in the horse shoe the whole number of men is enormous and they have all to be fed. Box Butte's beef, mutton, pork, wheat and corn is required for this and the market is great. The Burlington system with its network of connections gives an added market, and South Omaha, Chicago and Kansas City are all close markets for produce from Box Butte.

The climate of the county is dry, bracing and invigorating. No heavy feelings on the lungs are felt in this county, and all pulmonary complaints rapidly dissolve in the pure ozone of northwestern Nebraska.

The supply of water for the county is found chiefly in wells, although the Niobrara and Snake creek run through the county and where possible their waters are used for irrigation. At a depth of 30 or 40 feet the county is underlaid with pure water and the residents all have wind-mills keeping water for home and stock use all the time fresh.

For investments in real estate Box Butte county offers inducements to outside capital unequalled in any country. For the capitalists now is the time to invest in realty in the county; for the farmer, now is the time in which to settle, and make the raise that has been in perspective all through your life. Advantages are offered here that the farmer will do well to take hold of at present. The time is propitious for settling here, the outlook for immense crops being such that the farmer from the east who is renting a farm could do no better than look over the situation and take advantage of the present opening.

The farmers of this county who by their stick-to-itiveness have made a success in life, are legion, and below is found a few of the most prominent ones and they are taken from all over the county, viz:

Hon. Eli Gerber, Barney Halber, John Armstrong, W. D. and B. E. Johnson, C. H. Britton, J. A. Ball, Henry Winton, F. C. McCoy, L. Sampy, D. A. Paul, G. W. Jones, John Leith, L. R. Corbin, J. A. Wilson, and hundreds of others, any of whom may be corresponded with and will give their experience for the benefit of probable settlers.

The prominent towns of the county are as follows:

### HEMINGFORD.

Hemingford the county seat is located in the geographical center of the county, and is destined in the near future to become one of the leading cities of the northwest. She has the undisputed right to claim the finest townsite in Nebraska, being located on a gentle slope having a natural drainage, with unlimited supply of pure water for domestic and other use, and inhabited by a brainy class of people who are united in the one grand object to make Hemingford a city founded on a solid financial foundation, furnish capital a safe investment, and above all, to found a city of churches and of education. To better appreciate the future possibilities of this rising western town, a short history of the many industries and short sketches of some of our business men and the enterprises already located amongst us, is necessary, and, for lack of space in this issue, it is impossible to give a complete history of

everything and everybody connected with the upbuilding of the city that really should be done, but the following will give the reader a birds-eye view of what the citizens are doing, and in future issues will give a broader history of what we expect to be.

Among our successful business men we find C. A. Barlew, President and Cashier of the Box Butte Bank, who by strict attention to business and adopting a conservative banking system has been able to hold out to the business men of Hemingford and surrounding country a safe depository. Such men as Mr. Barlew are a credit to any community. Mr. Barlew formerly resided in Wisconsin, and is thoroughly in touch with all the life and progress of the west.

Few cities of treble the size of Hemingford have such hardware stores as are found here under the ownership and management of A. Uhrig and H. E. Green; these men with the push which only characterizes the western men, are destined to become the financial leaders in this county and in their particular line of business.

C. J. Wildy the general merchant deals in everything, and is the right man in the right place. This is proven by the fact that he is the oldest merchant in the county and has a stock of goods second to none in the county. For such men as C. J. Wildy there can be nothing but success, as progressiveness is his motto.

At the Hotel Pinkerton, we find J. T. Pinkerton proprietor, who is another man that shows by his actions that he has the greatest faith in the city and his house is conducted in such a manner as to bring credit to himself as well as blessing to the town.

W. K. Hernal, general merchandise, deserves special mention, as he is always to the front with a full and complete line of goods at reasonable prices. He takes pleasure in looking after the interest of his town, and although his duties in the store are many and diversified, he still finds time to entertain visitors to the city.

Samuel Switzer, proprietor of the Metropolitan Hotel, needs no introduction by THE HERALD as he enjoys the honor of being our chief executive and is acknowledged to be one of the leaders in the upbuilding of Hemingford.

No city can be successful without such men as Tuttle & Tash, W. M. Iodence, B. F. Gilman, and Judge D. K. Spacht, who each practice law and are dealers in real estate and by strict attention to business have laid solid foundations for fortunes. These gentlemen practice in all courts in the state, and the bar of Hemingford is entitled to take front rank amongst the legal fraternity of the State of Nebraska.

HEMINGFORD ROLLER MILLS, and the mention of this industry brings glad tidings to every home. Under the careful management of the owners, Messrs. Miller & Wildy, this mill holds first place in the northwest. Having the capacity of one hundred barrels per day, it furnishes hundreds of homes with the best flour manufactured from home raised wheat. Messrs. Miller & Wildy are both practical millers and state decisively, that Hemingford Roller Mills will always hold its present enviable reputation, and that the care and attention given this business from time to time will be increased in the future.

H. H. Pierce, the prominent livery, stock and feed man, is always at his post ready to accommodate the traveling public at all times.

Clark Olds and Richard Bevin are each in the front rank as plow manufacturers and general blacksmiths, and from the continual sound of hammers, anvils and machinery in their shops, they are certainly doing a large business.

W. J. Bean, druggist and pharmacist, is always at his place of business and always keeps on hand a fresh supply of drugs; and his prescription business is carefully attended to. His drugs are pure, and as he is a state registered pharmacist, his business is large.

G. Goodenough and D. A. Libby are the tonsorial artists and enjoy a lively trade in their particular line of business, and are always ready for any work that comes their way.

G. C. Alexander, painter and decorator, B. L. Weed, butcher and ice dealer, M. H. Goodenough, manufacturer of boots and shoes, J. C. McCorkle, grain-dealer and manager of the Hemingford elevator, J. H. Shirk, furniture and undertaker, M. Shindler, proprietor of the Farmers' hotel, Dr. Blanchard, and a hundred other professional and business men, go to make

Hemingford a metropolitan business center.

The educational facilities of Hemingford are the best in the county. We have one of the best graded schools in western Nebraska with an elegant brick two-story school house, fire-proof throughout, with all the latest improvements in ventilation and seating capacity, and preparations are now being made for heating the building by a furnace which will be completed for next winter. The school is in charge of Prof. L. B. Fenner, one of the foremost educators of the state; with a full quota of assistant teachers, all of whom are thoroughly equal to their duties, up-to-date in their methods, posted on the latest ideas of education—it is safe to say that Hemingford stands first in the educational arena.

Among our churches we find the following denominations, with good membership and houses of worship: Methodist Episcopal, Congregational, Baptist, Episcopalian, German Lutheran, Swedish Lutheran and Catholic; and to say that the morals and future guidance in good things of our citizens is putting it mildly, Hemingford has the greatest reason to hold the pride of her citizens, who from the amount of energy put forth in the past, are a credit to a city of no mean proportions in the near future.

### ALLIANCE

Alliance had its first inception on June 27, 1887, when at the sale of school lands of Box Butte County and the lively bidding between eastern buyers present for sec. 26-25-48, indicated that said section was for some purpose other than that of farming as several 40 acre tracts of what was then virgin prairie brought as high as \$45.00 per acre. Immediately thereafter people became convinced that the B & M people had decided to make it an important point on their Wyoming extension and began to flock to this section and settled down and began business in tents and the rudest forms of frontier shanties.

Banks with thousands of dollars of capital were doing business in little 10x12 buildings made of native pine boards, which were afterwards remodeled into coal houses. Large mercantile and hotel establishments were carried on in the same manner and this straggling wild west village was called Grand Lake and continued to flourish until February 25, 1888, when the Lincoln Land Co. platted the town of Alliance, and put the lots on the market. One lot at the junction of the two main streets sold for \$1,500.00 and a few years later for \$4,500. Immediately then sprang up like magic a city, which has continued to prosper, until it is now among the leading towns of the northwest. Nearly all its business men are of that young energetic class which to day are working wonders and carving out names and fortunes for themselves, in developing the west. Among them and probably first among the business institutions of Alliance, is the First National Bank capital \$50,000, with average deposits of \$80,000, the majority of its stock being owned by W. A. Hampton, president, and R. M. Hampton, cashier; Bank of Alliance, F. M. Knight president; Thos. Beck, hardware and undertaking; A. L. Field, drugs and stationery. C. A. Newberry, hardware and farm machinery; Mollring Bros. general merchandise, Bell & Acheson groceries; J. E. Graber, exclusive boots and shoes; W. D. Rumer, general merchandise; Alliance Grocery Co., Banks Stewart manager, wholesale groceries; Mike Elmore livery and horse dealer; G. W. Duncan grocer, and many other active and enterprising business men representing all lines of business incident to an active and growing community, also a full complement of professional men among whom are worthy of mention; R. C. Noleman, G. M. Sullivan, W. G. Siminon, Wm. Mitchell, L. A. Berry, R. W. Montgomery, and F. M. Dorrington attorneys; Doctors Bellwood, Miller, Lewis and Bowman. All the leading church denominations have elegant places of worship, with faithful and earnest pastors in charge. Also a fine system of graded schools under the management of Supt. W. R. Siders and his able corps of teachers and last but not least

Alliance is a division station on the B & M system and well supplied with roundhouse, machine shop, etc. in charge of Supt. J. R. Phelan whose division extends from Ravenna, Nebraska, to Billings, Montana, a distance of 800 miles across the four great states of Nebraska, Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. He is ably assisted by J. C. Birdsall, trainmaster, J. P. Reardon master mechanic and D. C. McIntyre road master who are all residents of Alliance.

Three well edited wide awake newspapers, The Pioneer Grip, the oldest paper in the county, edited by Hon. F. M. Broome with W. H. Trainor as business manager. The Guide a staunch republican organ is ably edited by Mr. J. S. Paradis a successful newspaper man of many years experience, also the Times published by H. J. Ellis, a young man of nerve, energy, and great promise. These "engines of thought" are doing their full share in the upbuilding of Alliance in particular and Box Butte county in general.

### BOX BUTTE

A rising young city, 12 miles east of Hemingford is composed of men who are thoroughly alive to the future of Box Butte county and are straining every nerve to make a record for themselves, both as to amount of crops and progressive work. M. D. Atkins, the most prominent business man and also post master, takes the lead and by precept and example encourages every one to make the most from the rich loam comprising the soil of this part of the county. The farmers are happy and contented, well satisfied with the outlook, and preparing to put in immense crops this spring. The city is building up and will have a considerable bearing in the wealth returns of the county in the near future.

### LAWN

Is situated 12 miles west of Hemingford, and has all the push of a western town, and its interests are looked after by the pushing and energetic postmaster J. J. Lutsch. Mr. Lutsch is a man of many resources and one who has the welfare of his town and county at heart. He is enthusiastic and his neighbors have "caught on" and they are coming to the front in good shape. They have the greatest confidence in their locality believing, and with good cause, that their land cannot be beaten by any township in the county, and the returns from their crops are bearing out their faith in the county.

### BEREA

Is situated half way between Hemingford and Alliance and its citizens show the right spirit by having correspondence in all the county papers. Situated as is Berea, it has prominence by having the Burlington railroad, running into the town, a fact that grain men have taken great advantage of. Two large elevators are erected close to the track for the reception of the large output of wheat, and the farmers are correspondingly happy. The chief executive of the town is Miss F. A. Stratton, who is post-mistress and a business woman of marked ability and enterprise who is pushing to the front and already occupies a most enviable position. The land around Berea is certainly most prolific and the wheat returns have been such as to create considerable interest in this township. The farmers are turning over lots of land and seeding down immense fields of small grain and other cereals. The city has great prospects as a strictly agricultural town is ranking high.

### MARSLAND,

situated on the Northern line of Box Butte county is one that will without any doubt become a rich town in the near future, and it is by the push of its inhabitants that their present prospects are so bright. By the amount of business transacted through the Burlington road this town is one of the few that has not felt the stringency of the times, a fact which is largely due to the efforts of R. B. Gregg, L. Snow and J. Tyler, who all carry full lines of merchandise in their various stores. Two large roller flour mills turning out a large amount of snow white flour, (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.)