

Attorney William Mitchell.

None of the members of the Box Butte county bar is better known or recognized as a tireless worker, a fearless and aggressive advocate, than William Mitchell, whose offices are in the Fletcher block. Perhaps the secret of Mr. Mitchell's success is not only due to his knowledge of the law, but also to the concise and painstaking efforts in arranging and presenting his clients' causes both in the lower and supreme courts. Mr. Mitchell is now serving his second term as county attorney and his prosecution of criminals has been so vigorous and unrelenting that evil doers who come under his jurisdiction receive the full benefit of this popular guardian of law and order for Box Butte county. Mitchell's axiom is "Let No Guilty Man Escape." He is a native of Pennsylvania and came here in 1888, when he began the practice of law.

S. M. Smyser, County Clerk.

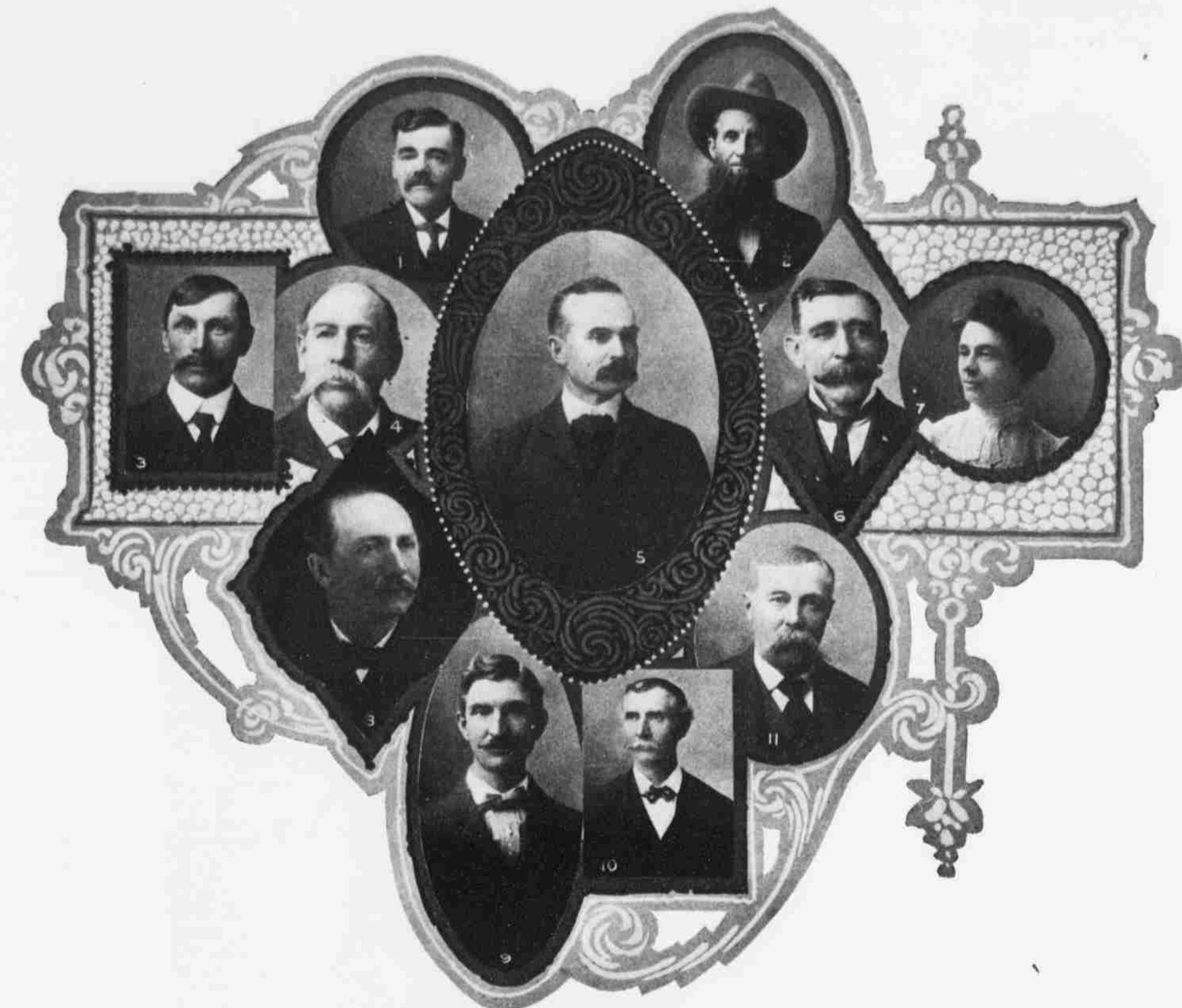
Mr. Smyser was born in Moultrie county, Ill., September 1, 1852, where he was reared and educated. Until he had reached his 22d year he remained on the old homestead, where he assisted his father in farm work. He then taught school, and in 1875 began the study of law, being admitted to the bar two years later. Mr. Smyser practiced his profession in Moultrie county until 1890, and in October of that year located at Hemingford, Box Butte county, where he resumed the practice of law until March, 1894, when he removed to Alliance and became clerk of the government land office. January 1, 1900, he resigned his position to fill the office of county clerk, to which he was elected the previous fall. Mr. Smyser has figured in politics nearly all his life. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias. June 3, 1872, he was united in marriage, in Sullivan, Ill., to Miss Clara A. Stone, to whom three children were born, a son and two daughters. Mr. Smyser is serving his third term as county clerk and his friends are urging him to allow his name to come before the congressional convention as a candidate next fall.

Judge D. K. Spacht.

The judge was born July 16, 1852, in Barnes county, Penn., where he grew to manhood, receiving his education in the public schools of that locality. For 12 years he taught the "young idea" and in the meantime learned telegraphy, being later employed by the Philadelphia & Reading railroad as operator for two years. In 1882 he came to western Nebraska and located at Seward, where he spent six years as cashier of a bank. The judge then became a resident of Box Butte, and for a time assisted in the county clerk's office, later becoming a deputy under J. K. Neal, serving for four years in that capacity, and is now in the same official position under County Clerk Smyser. In 1890 he was elected county judge and continuously remained on the judicial bench for six years. In the fall of 1901 he was again elected county judge. January 1, 1885, in Seward, Neb., Judge Spacht was wed to Miss Elizabeth Cullford, three boys and three girls being born to them.

Ira Reed, Sheriff.

Mr. Reed was born in Seven Points, Penn., August 24, 1859, and remained with his father on the farm until he had reached the age of 22 years, when he entered college at Elysburg, Penn., and spent three years. He then came west to Boone, Ia., and opened up a flour and feed store, removing to Superior, Neb., one year later, and for three years conducted a meat market there. Mr. Reed then located in Box Butte county, and engaged in various vocations, ranching, livery and meat market business for 15 years. In the fall of 1901 he was elected sheriff, and was re-elected in the fall of 1902. He is a member of four fraternal orders, the Masons, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen and Royal



Officials of Box Butte County.

1—Geo. W. Duncan, Commissioner Third District; 2—S. M. Smyser, County Clerk and Clerk District Court; 3—Frank Caha, Commissioner First District; 4—D. K. Spacht, Judge; 5—Wm. Mitchell, Attorney; 6—Ira Reed, Sheriff; 7—Leora A. Rustin, Superintendent of Schools; 8—A. S. Reed, Assessor; 9—Chas. W. Brennan, Treasurer; 10—J. P. Hazard, Surveyor; 11—Geo. W. Loer, Commissioner Second District.

Highlanders. Mr. Reed is one of the most popular officials the county has ever had, which is evidenced by the fact that when elected for his second term he received the largest majority of any of the successful candidates.

C. W. Brennan.

C. W. Brennan, whose familiar face is in the group of county officers, came here with his parents from Bay City, Mich., when a mere boy. A few years ago he entered the employ of the Burlington railroad as brakeman, and soon met with an accident that incapacitated him for the work, and had to find different employment. He associated himself with his brother Frank in the drug business about three years ago, and is still a member of the firm of F. J. Brennan & Co. In the fall of 1903 he was the democratic nominee for county treasurer, to run against Alex Muirhead, republican, and the returns indicated his defeat by the small majority of one vote. He instituted a contest, and was declared elected by three votes. The case was appealed to the district court, and will probably be decided at the spring term.

Leora A. Rustin.

Leora A. Rustin was born in Aledo, Ill., February 6, 1871. Her parents soon came west, settling in Creston, Iowa, and later in Omaha, Neb. Her education was gained in the public schools of Creston, Omaha and the State Normal at Peru. In 1892 she came to Hemingford and began teaching in District No. 81. This was followed by several years of school work in the country schools. Later she was elected primary teacher in the Hemingford schools, which position she held until the spring of 1903.

when she was elected as one of the Alliance corps of teachers. In August she was nominated for the office of county superintendent by the republican party, resigned her place in the schools, and prepared for an active campaign, making a house to house canvass by driving to all parts of the county. On November 4 she was elected by a majority of 111 votes.

present home. This was in 1893. Mr. Loer is a veteran of the Civil war. When but a mere lad he forsook the hearth of his parents and went to the front in the defense of his country, serving in Company B, 33d Indiana, and accompanied Sherman on his famous march to the sea. In the grand review on Pennsylvania avenue, in Washington, D. C., at the close of

1885, together with his brother, I. S. Reed, settled on the ranch he still owns and occupies as a home, two miles east of the city of Alliance. From the first he identified himself with the business and political interests of the county, and served as county commissioner and county treasurer with honor to himself and satisfaction to the entire public. He has been, ever since its organization, and still is, vice president of the First National Bank of Alliance, and is one of the most highly respected citizens of Northwest Nebraska.

John P. Hazard.

The subject of this sketch is one of the first, if not the first, to settle on the table lands of Box Butte county. He selected his claim in August, of 1884; made settlement April 14, 1885, and has remained a citizen of this county since its organization.

He at first engaged in farming along with surveying and locating. Later school teaching and surveying, but is now devoting his entire attention to surveying and civil engineering.

He is the city engineer for Alliance, and last fall was re-elected county surveyor, which place he has faithfully filled several terms.

Mr. Hazard got his education after having arrived at the age of maturity, and principally by private study and actual experience, and though now nearly 54 years old, is still a diligent student, and does not consider the goal of his attainments as having been reached.

"Health is wealth." Not so to the physician.

Patient: "Do cucumbers distress all people, doctor?"

Doctor: "No, sir; only those who eat them."

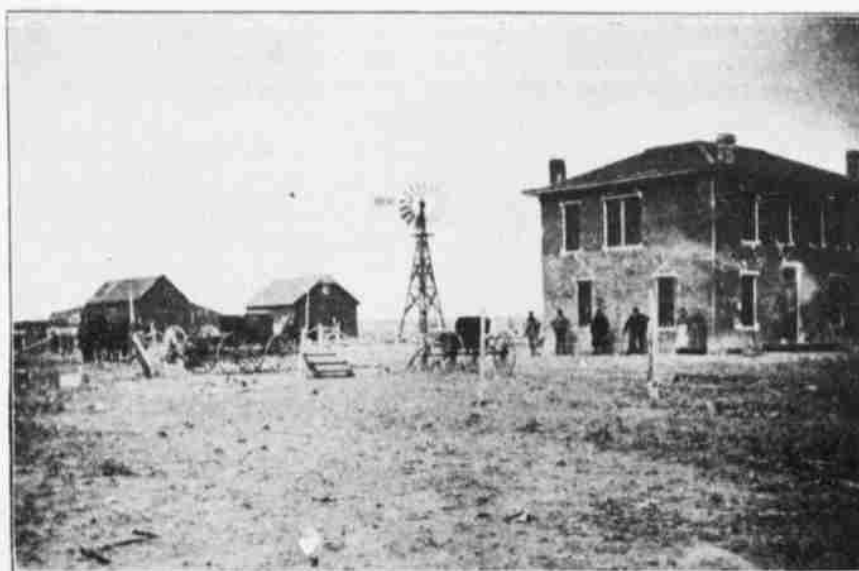
the war, in the spring of 1865, Mr. Loer was very much in evidence. His ranch consists of two sections, well stocked and with many modern conveniences. Mr. Loer is serving his second term as county commissioner, being elected both times by large majorities.

Francis Caha, County Commissioner.

One of the most popular young men in Box Butte county to-day is the subject of this sketch. Mr. Caha was born in Austria, April 18, 1879, and four years later came with his parents to America. They settled in Saunders county, Neb., and here young Caha assisted his father in tilling the soil. In 1888 they removed to Box Butte, and on reaching his majority Mr. Caha took up a claim and engaged in farming and stock raising, which he has since followed. In 1900 he was elected one of the county commissioners and so faithfully did he perform his duties to his constituents that he was re-elected last fall by a pleasing majority. Mr. Caha was married in 1897, at Provo, S. D., to Miss Mamie Moravsek, three children being their issue.

A. S. Reed.

A. S. Reed, the efficient and popular assessor of Box Butte county, was born in New Berlin, Chenango county, N. Y., in 1852. At the age of 23 years he, acting upon the advice of Horace Greeley, came west as far as Wisconsin, and 10 years later, in June,



Box Butte County Poor Farm—E. L. Vaughn, Manager.

George W. Duncan, County Commissioner.

Mr. Duncan was born on a farm in Louisa county, Ia., May 8, 1853, and at the age of 14 moved with his parents to Wayne county, Ia., where he resided until 1886. That year he came to Alliance and took up a claim near the present townsite, and engaged in ranching for three years, when he embarked in the grocery business. Two years ago he disposed of his grocery and entered the employ of Mr. Acheson. Ten years ago he was elected county commissioner and has served continuously in that official capacity since then. Mr. Duncan was married in Wayne county, Ia., October 7, 1872, to Miss Lizzie J. Acheson, to whom six children, four girls and two boys, were born.

G. W. Loer, County Commissioner.

One of the best citizens and most interesting gentlemen is G. W. Loer. He is also one of our practical ranchers, being held in reverential esteem by all his acquaintances. Mr. Loer was born and reared in Henry county, Ind. At the age of 20 he came west to Des Moines county, Ia., where he farmed three years, removing to Menroe county, that state, in 1871, where he spent 18 years in extracting wealth from the soil. Mr. Loer for the next six years farmed in Kearney county, Neb., and then removed to Box Butte county, and bought a relinquished claim and also filed on a homestead six miles south of Hemingford, his



Box Butte County Court House and Jail.

A Solid Banking Institution.

The review of the city of Alliance, as given in the Herald's Special Edition, would be most incomplete if the financial interests of the municipality were omitted, and in dwelling on this subject it is absolutely necessary to make special mention of that solid financial establishment, The First National Bank.

This popular banking institution has recently undergone a change of officials, whereby W. A. Hampton, president of that institution, disposed of his interests to Messrs. Charles E. Ford of Chicago, and S. K. Warrick of Broken Bow. The gentlemen are interested in several important banks throughout the country, among them being the Commercial Bank of Hammond, Ind., the Broken Bow State Bank and the Bank of Merna, aggregating deposits to the amount of \$900,000. Mr. Ford, who resides in Chicago, has become president of the bank in the retirement of Mr. Hampton, and Mr. Warrick becomes the cashier. G. G. Hampton will remain as assistant. A. S. Reed and R. M. Hampton will act as vice presidents. The board of directors are: Charles E. Ford, R. M. Hampton, A. S. Reed, S. K. Warrick and H. G. Warrick.

The consideration in this important transfer of stock was about \$25,000 with a handsome bonus as a side issue. This speaks more than words of the bank's standing.

While Mr. Ford will not as yet make his home in Alliance, his new financial interests will be the means of bringing him to this city often, and we hope ere long to see him a permanent citizen, enjoying the benefits of this locality in more than one sense.

The new president is well-known in western banking circles and has the reputation of being a man of excellent business qualifications, conservative and trustworthy in every respect.

Mr. Warrick, the new cashier, comes from Broken Bow, and as Mr. Ford, has had years of experience in banking business and is thoroughly qualified for the position he assumes. Mr. Warrick will soon have his family here and will soon become a permanent resident and be cordially welcomed by our citizens. His assistant in the bank, Glen Hampton, will prove an admirable helpmate to Mr. Warrick, thus making it pleasant both for patrons and officers alike.

Under this new order of things the confidence sustained by the reliable First National will continue and with this infusion of new blood the institution will be doubly secure. The directors are men of such sterling worth as give entire confidence to the business world.

"What's in a name?" If it's a Russian name we should answer, the alphabet.

"Transplanting" the Box Butte County Court House.

The above illustration graphically portrays the moving of the county court house from Hemingford to Alliance. This feat of engineering was successfully accomplished in 1901. After an attempt was made to move the large building overland, a distance of 20 miles, the railroad company, through its efficient employees, succeeded in hauling it to this city without damage and in a short time. The "house of justice" is 40x50 feet in size, two full stories, with a heavy truss roof, constructed with a heavy pine frame, weighing ten tons. On the road there were two cuts to pass through, and an effort was made to get the building high enough on four 50,000 capacity trucks to clear the banks. The building was thus "in the clear," and with several loaded flat cars to balance the engine, No. 185, with W. A. Meyers at the throttle, moved slowly to its destination, 20 miles away. Once the court house reached Alliance, the building soon rested on its present site and to-day the story of its strange adventure can only be verified in the minds of the astounded hearers by a photographic representation of the real facts.



"Transplanting" the Box Butte County Court House.