

The Sioux County Journal. (OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER.)

Subscription Price, \$2.00. L. J. Simmons, Editor. Entered at the Harrison post office as second class matter.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1890.

THE JOURNAL acknowledges the receipt of the Compendium of the Tenth Census, Part 1 and 2, with the compliments of Senator A. S. Paddock. The books contain a vast amount of information relative to the condition of the United States at the taking of the census in 1880.

A terrible calamity befell Secretary of the Navy Tracy on last Monday morning by the destruction of his home in Washington. Mrs. Tracy was awakened by smoke which filled the room and found her husband apparently overcome by the smoke, but she succeeded in dragging him to a window and admitting fresh air.

THE JOURNAL had hoped that after the result of the election and defeat of the scheme to keep the new officers from taking their seats, that the old gang that has been running matters since the organization of Sioux county would be satisfied to let law and justice take its course and settle the questions of right and wrong.

Not satisfied with the decision of the people at the polls last November, they concocted a scheme to keep the choice of the officers to which they were elected, and had it not been for the fact that the people came here in force on January 9th, to see that justice was done, it is hardly likely that one of the newly elected officers would to-day be in possession of his rights.

Speaking of the estimate of expenses made by the board at its meeting in January the Herald says: "When the county was organized and had a complete set of records and safes to buy, modest levies were made for three years, the total levies when everything had to be bought new, not exceeding \$21,722."

"The above statement as to the amount levied is correct. Now let us look at the 'modest' part of the levy." On page 290, Chapter 18, Section 25, of the Statutes of 1887, relative to the duties of the county board, subdivision first says:

"TAXES.—To cause to be annually levied and collected taxes authorized by law for county purposes, not exceeding one dollar and fifty cents on the one hundred dollar valuation, unless authorized by a vote of the people of the county, and in addition thereto sufficient to pay the interest, and create a sinking fund for the payment of the principal, of all indebtedness which existed at the adoption of the constitution, November 1, 1875."

"The commissioners' record, book 'A', page 18, shows the following under date of June 7, 1887: 'It was resolved that the levy for county purposes be and the same is hereby declared to be 18 mills on the \$ of assessed valuation.' In the same book on page 74, under date of June 12, 1888, the following appears:

"On motion 14 mills on the \$ valuation was levied for 1888 for county general fund. Inclosed in this is 3 mills to pay outstanding indebtedness and 1 mill is levied for 1888 for special bridge fund." Again on page 129 of the same book is found under date of June 11, 1889, the following:

"To provide county revenue the board made the following levy: For the general fund 24 1/2 mills on the \$ valuation and for the road and bridge fund 18 1/2 mills on the \$ valuation. They also authorized the expenditure of \$ 50,000 of the general fund for roads and bridges." The chart, showing that for each year

the levy has been as high as the law would admit, makes the claim of modest levies fall a trifle flat. The organ of the ring makes a great cry about the prospects of high taxes and the high estimate made by the county board, but not one word does it say in regard to the condition of the finances.

No word is uttered to show that with the levy to the highest limit a debt of more than ten thousand dollars has accumulated against the county, and if a levy for 1890 could be made for \$18,800 it would not clear up the indebtedness of the county and pay the running expenses for the year.

The ring organ also makes a great kick because of the action of the county board in appointing George Walker county attorney and claims that he is holding the office illegally. If that was all, the question has been taken to the supreme court and will be settled there as to its legality, but for the information of our readers we refer them to page 490, chapter 26, of the statutes of 1887 which says:

"SEC. 106. [APPOINTMENTS.]—Appointments under the provisions of this chapter shall be in writing, and continue until the next election at which the vacancy can be filled, and until a successor is elected and qualified, and be filed with the secretary of state, or proper township clerk, or proper county clerk, respectively."

There is no mistaking the words of the statute when it states that such appointments shall be made in writing and filed with the proper clerk, and Commissioner Weir, who was a member of the old board when the alleged appointment of Mr. Hull was made, has said that no such written appointment was made.

The new board carried out the wish of the people in the appointment of George Walker. The ring organ says "he is unscrupulous and unfit to serve in a position of responsibility." But the fact is nevertheless established that this same George Walker has done as much or more than any one man to show up the condition of the affairs of Sioux county and the ultimate result if the old ring was permitted to continue in control. The board cannot be blamed for not wanting Mr. Hull as county attorney when not legally made so, but his actions while acting under his alleged appointment went to show that he was into the scheme to keep the new officers from being seated, and after his action in that matter the county board would not be apt to take much stock in his legal advice and the result would be that he would be in a very unpleasant position.

There are a number of things regarding the records and conduct of the former officers of the county which the people desire to be informed about and THE JOURNAL will give them the facts in the matter as fast as time and space will permit.

As regards the action of the county board in making THE JOURNAL the official county paper, all there is to say is that two of the members of the board are straight republicans and they would not be apt to make the organ of the fusion ring the official paper.

A Communication. EDITOR JOURNAL:—I notice in the Sioux County Herald of Jan. 25th that the editor has been adding the various items together that the new commissioners estimated for the expenses of the county for the year 1890. Then when the pent up fires of his indignant bosom could no longer be suppressed he breaks forth with the exclamation "Holy Grail!" (whatever that means). Whether he really means to swear about it, or whether he invokes the friendly aid of somebody's ghost to cool his fevered brow we are unable to tell. Then in the exuberance of his nature he shouts, "hurrah for the mud ring!" Can it be possible that the youthful editor of the Herald is so obtuse as to confound an estimate for expenses with a levy for the same?

So wise, so young, they say. Do ne'er live long. No sane man can for a moment believe that the commissioners intend to make a levy sufficient to raise \$37,000, and yet the Herald in its eagerness to find fault and to prejudice the people against the new administration, seeks to mislead public opinion.

Some one has said that the "Press is the pulse of the people" but in the case of the people against the Herald, the people's pulse is not favorably impressed. It is better to build up than to tear down. I esteem it unwise and impolitic to seek to smirch the character of any well-disposed person or combination of persons who unite to obtain redress from either real or fancied wrongs.

The gibbness with which the Herald applies the words "mud ring" to a majority of the voters of Sioux county is in bad taste and tends to tear down rather than to build up. Such a course may be the ambition of the Herald, but public sentiment is a wise critic and no doubt will consign the catch-penny paper to the oblivion it so richly deserves.

Let us take a retrospective view of some of the proceedings of certain parties who are supposed to be not overly friendly to the so-called "mud ring." We will define the meaning of "mud ring" to mean dirty work, so as to be able to make the application where it properly belongs.

W. E. Patterson came to Sioux county to engage in journalistic work, published the SIoux County JOURNAL, but

soon incurred the enmity of County Attorney E. D. Satterlee, the proprietor of a rival paper, and on some trumped up charge was arrested and thrown into jail.

George Walker, in his laudable efforts to expose to the public view the violations of the law in the misappropriation of the people's money by the county commissioners, by and with the advice of the county attorney, was assaulted in the dark with a bludgeon.

Again he was, on a charge that could not be sustained, lodged in jail. On another occasion, while engaged in canvassing the county on the eve of an election for the office of county attorney, Mr. Walker was hunted over the county by the officers of the law armed with a warrant based on charges that were spurious and that could not be sustained.

N. L. Pollard came to the county in 1889 and engaged in the real estate business. Under the provisions of the herd law he had occasion to take up a horse or cow belonging to J. W. Hunter, judge of the county court. Hunter retaliated by having Pollard arrested for the theft of the animal and, as usual, Pollard was incarcerated in the jail. Pollard stands virtually acquitted, but the county is asked to foot the bill.

Hundreds of voters of this county believe that in at least one precinct, fraud and ballot box stuffing defeated the choice of the people at the annual election of 1888.

The recent action of the county commissioners in requiring unreasonable and excessive security on the bonds of the officers chosen by the people, or as the Herald delights to call them "mud ring", looks like an attempt to accomplish the result of what they failed to secure at the polls.

Whether the above statements are corroborated by the records and sustained by public opinion, I leave for the public to decide.

If my definition of "mud ring" as applied to a combination of individuals be correct (namely, a propensity for doing dirty work) have I not shown that the parties who are adepts in doing dirty work, constituted the powers that were, but now are not? SEPTO.

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Consolidated Notice for Publication. Land Office at Chadron, Nebraska, February 4, 1890. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Conrad Lindeman, clerk of the district court, at Harrison, Nebraska, on March 20, 1890.

Notice of Contest. U. S. Land Office, Chadron, Neb., December 29, 1889. Complaint No. 2003 having been entered at this office by Charles E. Towsey, against Jason Dorey for failure to comply with law as to timber culture entry No. 2030, dated December 14, 1889, upon the section one, six and seven sec. 3, T. 27, R. 54, in Sioux county, Nebraska.

Notice of Contest. U. S. Land Office, Chadron, Neb., January 3, 1890. Complaint No. 2003 having been entered at this office by Charles E. Nicholson against Thomas Price for failure to comply with law as to timber culture entry No. 2030, dated March 3, 1889, upon the section 2, T. 27, R. 54, in Sioux county, Nebraska, with a view to the consolidation of said entry with entry No. 2030, which said claimant has failed to break 5 acres during the second year after entry and has failed to plant and cultivate the five acres broken the first year after entry and has failed to cure the defect up to the date of this contest.

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