The Sioux County Journal.

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF SIOUX COUNTY.

L. J. Simmons, - - Editor.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1897.

The York *Republican* goes after some republican editors for the manner in which they slobber over Senator Thurston in their effort to secure a postoffice. The writer considers Thurston a strong man and such prefer manly men to fawning sycophants, and he also considers that no appointments will be recommended unless deserved by the recipients. If John M. Thurston wants those for his friends only who will blindly fall down and worship him he is not the man he is credited with being and would be a disappointment to his friends. And if he cannot tell friends from hypocrites he is not so well acquainted with Nebraskans as he is supposed to be.

It is reported from Chadron that Mrs. Sheldon, wife of Representative Sheldon, is declining rapidly and must be taken to a milder climate, and as a consequence they will not again make Chadron their home. The fact is to be deplored for various reasons, first of which is consideration for the lady. The poor health of Mrs. Sheldon will handicap Mr. Sheldon in his work, while the knowledge that he will not longer make his home in northwest Nebraska will make it impossible for him to work with the same interest and zeal for the district he was elected to represent as he would did he expect to return to it to live.

The defeat of the Union Pacific funding bill left but one course open and that was foreclosure. Such suits have been instituted and the decree of the court will likely be obtained in the near future and when the sale day comes the people will most likely see Uncle Sam become the owner of that great railroad. But people should not take this to be the beginning of the move which is to end only with government ownership of all the railroads. If the signs are true it is the desire of the managers of the other great railroads that the government get the Union Pacific, but the reason for that desire is hard to conjecture. The matter is one of importance to the entire country and the progress of the case will be watched with interest.

The legislature seems to be accomplishing but very little. The bills now pending can keep the members at work for a year and enough resolutions introduced to repave that place which is reputed to now be paved with good intentions. It is proposed to investigate the state offices, beginning with the treasurer. That is all right and it is hoped that the committee will be made up of men who know enough to do the work so that the proceeding will not be a farce. So far State Treasurer Bartley has had the cash to turn over as the settlement progressed. It is also claimed that the pop supreme judges are to be county in, but that looks to be too dangerous a thing to do. If the men who are elected to make the laws and those elected to administer or execute them ignore and violate their oath and the law can it be expected that the masses will be lawabiding?

"At present a newspaper may be used for the publication of legal notices only after it has been published for fifty-two consecutive weeks and has been able to prove a circulation of at least 200. The bill now before the house is intended to throw down all restrictions and make any kind of publication a proper vehicle for carrying legal notices to the people.

"The bill aims a blow at the legitimate newspapers of the state. Not at the republican papers, nor at the democratic papers, nor at the populist papers, but at all legitimate publications. It may be pushed as a party measure to assist a few new papers of the populist faith, but if passed it will injure the populist cause by weakening the established papers now doing good service for the party. The dominent party does not need more organs. It does need better ones. The same may be said of the state. It already has too many weekly papers. If one-third of them would go out of existence this week the remainder would be able to do the public twice as much good as all of them do at present. A bill that has for its object the calling into existence of starving newspapers and the legalizing of little sheets that cannot get enough patronage from the public to give them a circulation of more than 200 copies is not a bill that stands up for Nebraska. It is a good bill for the friends of the hard working country publishers to defeat at the first opportunity."—Lincoln *Journal*.

The above will meet the hearty endorsement of the legitimate publishers all over the state. There is a belief that the best interests of the public would be conserved by so amending and strengthening the existing law in regard to newspapers as to make it much more difficult to establish what are called newspapers. The law regulates banks, doctors, druggists, school teachers, and there is a bill pending in the legislature which provides that men must pass an examination and procure a license to shoe horses. Would it be more than right that men who seek to become moulders of public opinion should show that they are qualified for the work?

George A. Eckles, of Chadron, is an applicant for the appointment to be receiver of the land office at Alliance under McKinley's administration and he has strong endorsements from the people of his home town, from other parts of the district and from the state outside the district. Considering the history of land office matters it would certainly be no more than justice that one of the positions be given to a resident of that place and as Mr. Eckles is the only man there who aspires to the place and has the united support of the republicans there, that should be a strong point in his favor. Another thing which entitles him to the support of every republican in the western part of the state is the canvass which he made last year for the nomination for state auditor. In that canvass he presented the rights of the western part of the state to recognition in a manner which was a credit to himself and the part of the state in which he resides. The convention named another as its candidate for auditor, but it made no sores on Eckles and the republican ticket had no more faithful supporter than he, and the loyalty he displayed in his work made him hosts of friends among influential republicans all over the state. If the appointment is made with a view to fairness to the district, and also to select a worthy and well qualified man, the chance of Mr. Eckles securing it ought to be very good.

The Country Press.

York Times.

When the republican party of Nebraska fully realizes the relations of the country press with the people of the state and adopts the proper means of availing itself of its assistance and full co-operation, it will win political victories. Ignored, snubbed and sneered at, deprecated, dispised and discredited, this mighty influence has still been the only prop of the party, the only effective means of reaching the voters, of meeting the accusations, arguments and pretensions of the opposition and staying the rising tide of discontent and dissatisfaction. It is a foolish and fatal conceit of some politicians that they can get up a cheap circulation once during a campaign that will do more good than all the newspapers in the state can do during the entire year. As well might a farmer throw a handful of corn into a forty acre lot and expect a crop of corn; as well might he plow one furrow at random through the field and consider the land cultivated. The country papers are read each week by four-fifths of the voters of the state, a large majority of whom read no other paper regularly. They are not all edited by Greeleys and Franklins to be sure, but those who do not originate ideas echo those of others and the weakest country paper is more quoted in its community than are the sayings of John Sherman or James G. Blaine. Two years ago last fall the republican editors were invited to participate in the campaign and the republican papers were made a leading feature. The editors appreciated the compliment, felt the responsibility and took hold with an earnestness and energy never displayed by them in any other campaign. The result was a republican majority of 17,000, aside from governor. This year the ticket, composed of equally good men was defeated by as many. What caused the change? Merely a change in public sentiment. How could this revolution of public sentiment have been checked? How can it be reversed? Only through the country press. If you were to give the wisest men in the state a century of time and unlimited means they could not build up so effective a system of reaching the voters and so potent a factor as we now have already in operation as the country press. To organize it, to systemize it and to use it is the only remedy for the disasters that have befallen us and the only hope of success in the future. The force of half a dozen interested politicians holding jobs or looking for jobs rustling around headquarters, writing stereotyped nonsense of others to their own kind out in the state, with the sole object of making themselves conspicuous has been played on the voters of Nebraska too often. These letters are estimated at what they are really worth, their circulars are never read by one in a hundred to whom they are sent and their money is squandered largely on professional legpullers, who know how to work them. The country press is the rallying point of the republican party in this crisis, its only hope. It is always true, always loyal, largely disinterested and has the confidence of the public. It is a channel extending into every corner of the state, into almost every home, through which can be conveyed a steady stream of fact and argument that will within a year revolutionize the sentiment of the state. We do not wish to be understood as criticising anything that has been done, but results show that something different must be done in the future. The other fellows have got the start of us. They have done their work all the year round in the country press and they have made it win.

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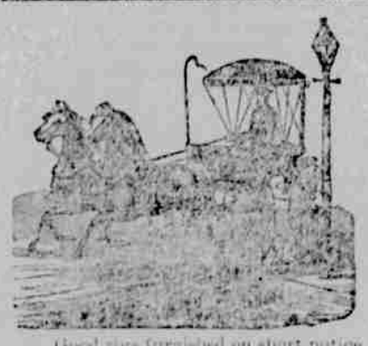

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