

SUPPLEMENT TO
The Northwestern

LOUP CITY, NEBR., Oct. 4, 1905.

Gibson's Unsway Record.

Loup City, Nebr., Oct. 1st, 1905.—Editor Northwestern: Another spam from the slander shop of the 21st says "Boss" Mellor is here in the interest of the republican and populist machines and the machine-made candidates, and apparently credits Mr. Mellor with a vast amount of influence, even to the extent of controlling affairs at the state house, most of the people in Lincoln and all the people in Loup City excepting his angelic majesty, the would-be Savior of the people, and a lieutenant or two.

Richard III, once said, "My Kingdom for a horse." Reasoning from that standpoint, Mellor's influence should be reasonably worth several million. George will yet be crediting Willis with controlling the weather, that is the bad weather, and if his perfection on earth keeps on losing his head to vent his spleen on Mellor, all kinds of weather will look alike to him and he will be wearing a gum coat in the sunshine.

At the January, 1905, session of the county board, Geo. H. Gibson, county clerk, presented to the board an estimate of expenses for the ensuing year aggregating \$27,225, being \$7,450 or more than one-fifth less than his own figures of 1904, which would have relieved the taxpayers to that extent had he not again taken the law into his own hands and refused to await the action of the state board of equalization.

At the July 1905, session of the county board of equalization, George recommended a levy to raise the amount of the estimate, and deceived the board into making same, by reporting that the action of the state board had been certified to him, when in fact such certificate did not reach him until the following month. This he denies, but the board will verify the truth of this statement. The question of adjourning as a board of equalization was submitted to me, and not having a copy of the amendments to the revenue law was unable to determine the question, and called the Attorney General by phone, who said he had sent the new law to the clerk in pamphlet form. George said he had received same and then got it for me, I read until I came to what is now a part of section 136 of the revenue law, which reads, "The county board of equalization and assessment shall adjourn from time to time until the action of the state board of equalization and assessment shall have been certified to the county clerk," which the clerk then and there said had been received by him, and thereby deceived the board into making the levies before the valuations were fixed, as was done by him the year previous. When the report came it was found that real estate had been raised another ten per cent, and personal property from ten to

twenty per cent, and that the board had passed a resolution to raise the rate of taxation ten per cent, and that the board had passed a resolution to raise the rate of taxation ten per cent, and that the board had passed a resolution to raise the rate of taxation ten per cent.

After the tax list was complete George brought the new machine in the air if he longer refused to obey the law and the order of the board, so he made his double back action red ink tax list, which cost the tax payers extra for red ink as follows: Andrew Salmons \$12.13, Fritz Bichel \$22.40, George Kontor \$22.02, James Coulter \$19.37, VanHorn Bros \$12.47, Ed Manchester \$24.50, O. Manchester \$14.10, Wm. Edwardowski \$23.41, Dan Bushhouse \$13.11, Frank Bonezinski \$26.24, Geo. Gillman \$11.40, Billy Jacobs \$12.05, Heinrich Kuhl, \$47.22, J. A. Mawhinney \$31.81, Paul Chlowski \$19.30, E. S. Hayhurst \$32.10, Paulina Waznicki \$16.70, Hank Bushhouse \$14.60, Wenzel Karel \$18.30, Wm. Aufrecht \$28.78, Mike Chlowski \$18.30, Chris Zwink \$20.84, Emil Shuman \$12.69, Henry Beck \$18.30, and the balance of the taxpayers their proportionate share in red ink extras.

If Geo. H. Gibson wanted to be all in all and everything in everything he might have committed an error without prejudices by reducing the levy in accordance with the increase in valuation, of which no taxpayer would or could complain.

When I learned that the action of the state board had not been had and certified to the clerk, as he reported, I concluded that the levies were illegal and that the board could not and did not legally adjourn, and tried to have the clerk reconvene the board of equalization in order that they might reduce the levies in accordance with the increase and make legal levies, which he refused to do, and completed his double red ink tax list, which increases real estate taxes 20 per cent, horses 80, mules 120, cattle 10, threshers 175, wagons 60, sewing machines 60 and pianos 40 per cent.

I afterwards requested the chairman of the board to re-convene the board of equalization and to have the levies legalized, which he did, and at this meeting I tried to have the levies reduced, which the board deemed inexpedient as the tax list was complete.

At this July 1905, session of the board of equalization, and as a result of Gibson's indignation meetings, a number of petitioners from four townships appeared before the board (in boots) and got a reduction of from twelve and one-half to twenty-five per cent aggregating \$24,181, as I remember it; as a result of which all the land in the county was raised ten per cent, or \$54,661, more than the reduction with the ten per cent increase the year previous makes twenty per cent, and strange as it may appear the four townships reduced paid more total tax as townships than they would have if left as they were.

In 1904 Geo. H. estimated expenses necessary at \$35,225, or twenty-five per cent more than necessary, and then blames the high rate of taxation to the "grafters," except when cornered, he then says it was to pay bonds. In 1906 the estimates of ex-

penditures were \$32,725, or 8,500 less than in 1904. In 1904 Geo. H. recommends a levy of twenty-four and five-tenths mills to raise \$32,725. In 1906 C. F. Beushausen recommends a levy of fifteen mills to raise \$22,775, and then think of the unlimited "gaul" of Gibson in going around holding indignation meetings to attach the blame to others. Geo. H. Gibson still seems to want to dodge the tax question and get me into a discussion of the expert proposition, and says that I knew he was short during his first term, and made it up during his second term, and that I knew who was to blame for it. Now George, you are greatly mistaken. When I wrote the last letter to the Northwestern I only knew such from hearsay, and at that time had not heard that you got out from under and attached the blame to others, as you did in the tax matter.

In conclusion, the taxpayers may find what their taxes should have been by deducting from their 1904 tax Gibson's extra twenty-five per cent, the amount paid for school bond tax in some school districts, and your share of the amount deducted from the railroads, if you happen to be one of the victims, and in 1905 deduct twenty per cent caused by Gibson refusing to wait for the action of the state board, on your real estate tax, and if you have personal property tax deduct 30 per cent from the amount you paid on horses, 120 on mules, 10 on cattle, 175 on threshers, 60 on wagons, sewing machines 60, pianos 40, or in short deduct the black from the red ink, which will only take a few minutes when in the treasurers office. To ascertain the amount paid on the different kinds of personal property it will be necessary to examine the assessors books.

Geo. H. again got us into trouble by reporting a considerable sum of money in the bridge fund, thereby deceiving the board into contracting for a bridge across the Loup at Austin, when in fact the treasurer had unpaid warrants purchased as an investment from other funds, which will necessitate paying for the bridge out of the 1906 levy, probably the result of his refusing to keep a warrant register as required by law.

Now Mr. Editor, I have endeavored to make this tax question plain, not only to those who are familiar with the question, but to everybody. If I have failed perhaps C. F. Beushausen will make it better understood.

I have heard it said by some in commenting upon this question that perhaps J. F. Nicolson might be more familiar with this matter than any other person, having done some of the work under the supervision of Mr. Gibson, and while Mr. Nicolson may have troubles of his own and may not thank me for this suggestion, I hope he will look at this matter as of vital interest to the taxpayers of Sherman county and comply with this suggestion and in so doing a square deal is all that any person should ask for or get. Thanking you for valuable space in your paper, I am

Respectfully Yours,
J. S. PEDLER