THE HERALD.

J. A. MACMURPHY,.....EDITOR.

PLATTSMOUTH, MARCH, 16, 1876.

WHAT INVESTIGATION HAS COST THE COUNTY.

Todd Revivimus.

WHO PAYS THE TAXES?

For astounding development of cheek in close proximity to amazing thinness of intellect recommend us to Todd & Co when they get on their "petition" hobby horse.

Some time last summer the following petition, largely signed, was handed to the com'rs. We ask that it be read attentively.

To the Hon. Board of Commissioners, Cass Co.

The undersigned citizens of the County aforesaid, beg leave very respectfully to petition your Honorable body, praying *earnestly and fervently* that you will WITHOUT DELAY, caused to be published a full statement of the levy on each fund in the years 1873 and '74 together with a statement of the amounts collected on each of said funds for each of above years, and your memorialists would also pray your honorable body to publish a detailed statement of all expenditures made by order of your honorable body, showing the name of person to whom paid, the nature of the service or material paid for, the date of payment and amount of same, for the foregoing years and up to date, and your memorialists would respectfully ask that the said statement do not enter into details in the matter of expenses incurred by the reason of elections and registration expenses nor expenses incurred by reason of the sessions of the district Court but that the same be given in gross under proper headings. Your memorialists would further pray your honorable body to cause to be published any and all contracts which your honorable body may have made in the years specified and up to date and we would respectfully pray that hereafter you cause to be published in BOTH PAPERS in the County, and known as the HERALD and *Walchman* ALL *proceedings* you may hereafter have at any and all meetings of your honorable body, so that your memorialists may be advised of the nature and extent of the same.

E. T. Bates; *E. Pitman; D. Pitman; D. Brinson; G. W. Bell*; J. Linn; E. W. Barnum; J. N. Applegate; S. M. KIRKPATRICK, L. C. POLLARD; Peter Gruber; *A. P. Weston*; H. C. Van-Horn; and many others.

It is said there were 900 signers to this petition. There were 49 names on the one from which we print this copy, and we have counted 300 on others now in the Clerk's office. It seems to have been signed irrespective of politics, and from all parts of the county, the assessors in each precinct having been asked—by some one—to circulate them.

Such a petition signed in such a manner no Com'rs ought to disregard. You observe they "earnestly and fervently pray," &c. The Com's made a careful computation of the cost of granting this petition in full, and found that if legal rates were charged for making out and publishing these reports, it would cost $1,590. Of course, if they ordered this done, (and on the strength of this petition they had a perfect right to do so,) any one performing the work would have the right to charge legal rates. They sent for the HERALD and we stated that if the party making out the "copy" was willing to work for nothing for the good of the county, we would too as far as our time was concerned, and would only charge for actual money paid out to printers. Clerk Wells and the editor of the HERALD then made another calculation, and said they would do the writing (copying) and printing for about $450.

The Com'rs still thought this was too large a bill for the tax-payers, and finally refused to order the past records printed; *but*, in obedience to the latter part of the petition, (because Mr. Hall and the honest ones who signed it said this was the most important part,) they did *order* the proceedings after that time to be printed in "*both papers*" as the petition called for.

The newspapers agreed to publish the proceedings *in full* for $5 per column, being less than the Chicago price for setting the type.

At that time and generally the "proceedings" would not average a column a month: all the facts necessary to be known to the public could have been condensed in half a column. If one column and published in one paper, (as they would have been but for this petition,) it would have cost the *tax*-payers $60 pr year, and if only averaging half a column, $30; surely no extraordinary or unwarranted sum.

You will bear in mind the HERALD did not ask for this printing and charged the bare cost of setting the type, reading the proof, correcting, and use of the paper being thrown in.

The other day the valiant Todd, with great rhetorical flourish, brought another petition, and here it is:

PLEASE READ.

To the Hon. Board of Commissioners, Cass Co,

The undersigned petitioners, residents and tax payers of Cass Co., Neb., respectfully represent to your honorable board that for several years, and especially for the year '74, their taxes have been onerously heavy and made more difficult to bear by their crippled industries, caused by the destruction of their crops, and recognizing the necessity of retrenchment and reform in order that labor may be lightly burdened and our energies not overtaxed, earnestly pray your honorable body to curtail expenses wherever possible so to do; and in order to introduce reform and retrenchment in the expenses of our county, your petitioners pray that the order of your body authorizing the payment of $5 per column for publishing the proceedings of your honorable court may be rescinded, and believing that our interests are best conserved by purchasing supplies where they can be procured cheapest, pray your honorable body to let all County printing, under control of your body, to the lowest bidder.

L. G. Todd; L. C. Pollard; S. M. Kirkpatrick; D. S. Draper; J. S. Upton; James H. Tucker; Jno. F. Buck; B. Albin; Theo. Buck; *G. W. Pell*; F. C. Linville; H. P. M. Chaffant; H. F. Taylor; H. DuBois; S. M. Loyd and others; there are 35 names in all.

This one is only signed by 35 persons and you will observe they are mostly from one little section of the county instead of all over as the first one was. They also only "earnestly pray," not "*fervently* and earnestly" as the others did; as there are many names on this that appear on the other, (in Italics in No 1) and they also pray earnestly and not fervently, it must be taken for granted that this case is not so urgent or of so much importance as the other one. For these, or some other reasons, the Com'rs have laid it over for the present,—and right here the HERALD comes in to say a word for itself and for many other good tax-*payers* in this County.

We do not opine that many of the gentlemen who signed these petitions, one or both, had any idea of the undercurrent of the whole thing, or really understood what they were doing. It is so common in this country to sign any kind of a petition that men do it thoughtlessly. To all these men the HERALD desires to say we feel most kindly, but to the three or four who engineered both these plots, who have lately (through their newly elected Commissioner,) made a direct stab at our reputation and our business, we have a rod in pickle that will, we think expose their vile schemes and petty ambitions, and lay bare their motives to the contempt of the really honest men and tax-payers of the County.

The first petition was signed by many honest men, but the wire workers who slyly egged it on, and the opposition to the Republican party aimed it at M. L. White, the party and Plattsmouth. We have the evidence of this on file, so don't preach to us that "there were no politics in it."

It was currently supposed by these parties that the full publication of the minutes would unearth some great rascality of White's or James' that would damage the party and enable the sore headed ones, by the aid of the democratic vote, to carry the county.

They cared nothing for the welfare of the county, nor the expense they put on the *tax payers*. At the head of this clique was B. S. Ramsay, who refuses to pay legal printing bills and weeps for the tax payers, but pays an average of $10 per year himself, while he loads a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars on the poor tax payers to help his own personal ambitions or his party interest; of which see Ramsey's history.

The first part of the petition was justly overruled by the county court on account of expense, the latter part was right enough and was done as the request called for.

This didn't suit Todd, Ramsay & Co. so they got up an investigation committee and started the bridge howl. By coming before the Com'rs, with long speeches and petitions they obstructed the regular business of the court and added to the length of the proceedings and caused more work, so that both the Clerk's bills and the printing bills were heavily increased, the minutes running up to two columns, and sometimes over instead of a column or half column as at first.

AN EXPENSIVE COMMITTEE

of examination was then called for in the hopes that it would make a fat place for some of their friends. The Com'rs, unwisely appointed the committee owing to the constant pressure these people were making. The extra expenses of the proceedings, the pay for the inspection of these bridges and the law suits that will grow out of Ramsay's action on Moore's bill and other follies since he has become a Com'r. will cost us (*we who pay the taxes*)

OVER ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS

to gratify the ambition of a few designing men.

So much for that part and now for petition No. 2, of which we will treat more fully (go back and read it carefully.)

It sets forth three things, viz: reduction of expenses. (A mere blind for what follows); on account of "onerous" taxes it asks to discontinue publishing the "proceedings," and requests that the county printing be let to the lowest bidder.

LOOK AT THE CHEEK OF IT.

As before they have roped some honest men in to sign the petition,—we are not after them—but look at the cheek of it, for Todd, Ramsay, Pollard & Co. (they have taken another partner in lately.)

After they have got all they want from the proceedings, got all the bridge bills published and all the doings of a full republican board of Com'rs, spread out before the people, as soon as Ramsey comes in they dont want them published. They don't want the people to see what their man is going to do; or else how big a fool he is making of himself.

If that isn't cheek and gauze combined we never saw any. It won't work. WE PROTEST Todd, in the name of every Republican in the county, and all honest democrats.

The game is deeper yet, charging fraud they hope to elect another commissioner soon, of the same way of thinking as T. R. P. & Co., and then as they will have a majority of the board they can steal all they want. They think to prepare the public mind for discontinuing the proceedings, so that when they come in power there will be no check on their actions or frauds, as you like it.

Well if that wasn't as pretty a game as was ever put up—who invented it? Todd—no he ain't sharp enough. We give it up, but the Republicans of this county don't propose to give up the *printed* minutes yet, and you can't get one of your commissioners in this fall.

THE LAST STEP.

We're not done yet; if they could elect their man, they would then have all the County printing, tax list and all and one of these honest fellows was heard to say that the tax list alone would——*run a democratic paper six months.*

Wasn't there a nice cat under the meal of that petition? Republicans, tax payers of this county, how do you like that? Are you going to stand it or will you help the HERALD protest. It will hurt you more than us, we have lived before we saw a newspaper and we can again, and you may rest assured if this scheme could be carried out you would be taxed for Com'r. proceedings, tax list, blanks and all that would draw to help run this new dem. machine. This for cutting down expenses.

WHO PAYS THE TAXES IN THIS COUNTY, ANYHOW?

Let's look into that. This petition of Todd & Co's. bases this appeal on the heavy taxes, which burdens them "onerously." Does it, let us examine? They want "labor lightly burdened." Whose labor? only theirs, no one else is counted in. The workingman, the mechanic, the professional man must be burdened to lighten the taxes and labor of a few landed aristocrats. That's the Gods' truth, gentlemen.

READ THE FIGURES:

To show who pays for all these expenses they are heaping on us, we give below, from the tax books, the true assessment list of some of these parties, and shall compare them with the poor men of the county:

L. G. TODD'S ASSESSED PROPERTY FOR 1875—
HENRY WOLFE, ASSESSOR:

Personal property—horses, 15 h'd	$ 700 00
" " —asses, 1 (!)	50 00
" " —cattle, 110 h'd	1,320 00
" " —swine, 30 h'd	30 00
" " —1 vehicles	150 00
Excess of improvement	200 00
All other property not exempt	340 00
Total	$2,791 00

He had 189 acres of land (a fine farm, you all know it) assessed at $1,260, not $8 an acre, 6 0 acres in all, at $1,420, making $2,214 that Todd swore this property was worth in 1875.

Why the little HERALD can beat that all hollow!

Ginger! horses at $45; who wouldn't buy? cattle at $12.50 a head?—by the way, Sam. Backer paid $50 a head for most of these cattle *just before the Assessor came 'round* this Spring; wagons at $45; only $30 over the law on improvements (house and barn cost $9,000) cheese houses, and all other property $350. And with no monies, no credits, he pays the taxes of the county. Ye Gods! this out-cheeks the other.

Swine, $1 apiece: We could never buy the smallest sucking pig share we came here at less than $2.

S. M. KIRKPATRICK'S ——

10 horses	$ 470 00
No asses	
Neat cattle, 20 head	215 00
Swine, 43 head	43 00
No wagons	
All other property not exempt	100 00
Excess of improvements	500 00
359½ acres of land at	2,516 00
Total	$3,038 00

Horses $45, cattle $10, swine $1, no wagons:—well Kirk, we'll let you off there.

ISAAC POLLARD.

No. of horses, 23 head	$ 740 00
Neat cattle, 135 head	1,445 00
Swine, 140 head	140 00
Vehicles, 3	95 00
5 acres forest trees, exempt, $500	
Excess of improvements	1,500 00
All other property	500 00
Total personal	$ 4,220 00
Land, 1,721 acres at	7,400 00
Grand total	$11,620 00

Land $5.60 (fine farm, you all know it) but houses, barns &c. horses $37, cattle not quite $11, pigs a dollar. Excess of improvements over $1,000 only $1,500, (barn cost $7,000, house $2,000 and chicken house or sheds, $1,000,) and all other property, the accumulation of years of good farming, but $800. Five acres of timber land exempt at $500, or $100 per acre, and other land that pays taxes less than $8. Isaac, you are better at getting the number of feet in a bridge than you are at getting in your tax-list correct.

L. SHELDEN'S.

Horses, 18 head	$ 735 00
Cattle, 93 head	2,678 00
Sheep, 8 head	8 00
Swine, 100 head	100 00
Vehicles, 3	90 00
Stocks and other securities bearing in	1,000 00
Excess of improvements	500 00
Organ	50 00
All other property not exempt	150 00
Total personal	$ 5,790 00
Lands, 1,501 acres	2,252 00
Grand total	$8,042 00

Land not $5.70, horses not quite $49, cattle less than $12, (sold some of them for $55); the sheep are so small we won't shear them; swine, $1; wagon $35; only saved a $1,000 in 12 long years of hard work, only has $500 over the $1,000 improvement exemption, and all the rest at $15.

Law! Sompy!! you are poor; we sympathize.

NOW FOR 1874.

But it was in 1874 that the taxes were most enormous. We give the gross sum of taxes paid by the above men, and various parties at haphazard through the county—and let us see again who pays the taxes according to their true wealth, and inclinations in the county they are paid, or from what sources the county really derives its revenues:

AMOUNTS PAID BY DIFFERENT MEN FOR TAXES IN '74.

(RATIO IN '73.)

Silas Crosser	$ 55 00
Jno. C. Cummins (60 acres)	83 48
Henry Eikenberry, (200 acres)	159 31
Jacob Adams, (160 and over)	105 04
Isaac Wise, (50 and over)	100 00
Sam M. Chapman	71 50
J. H. McKinnon (80 acres)	71 72
Samuel May, Stove Creek, (65)	74 00
W. J. Monroe (160)	67 00
Chas. Lazenby (90 and lot)	72 00
T. W. Smyrock	48 00
J. N. Wise	16 42
E. G. Dovey	832 00
C. H. Parmele (we don't know how much more)	67 00
Dr. Jno. Black	227 00
Jno. Fitzgerald	1,050 00
H. E. Palmer	216 00
Perry Walker	226 00
D. H. Wheeler	167 00
D. H. Wheeler & Co	516 00
L. Snelson	233 00
I. Pollard (paid 593 including penalty, &c. taxes about)	350 00
S. M. Kirkpatrick	129 00
L. G. Todd	255 00

In '74 Sheldon listed 320 acres at $3,480, less than $8 per acre again, and had $5,220 personal. He paid, in all, (as above) $333.

Pollard listed his acres at $10 per acre had $2,560 personal paid (as above) $510, (had 150 head of cattle $1,650, and all personal listed at $905.)

Todd listed 555 acres at $6,055, and $2,175 personal, paid in gross, $255.

But the assessor writes a letter and flies it to say that Todd and other farmers have contracted their hogs and cattle before the first of March, and refuse to list them and the county is losing thousands of dollars,—asks the Com'rs what to do. Todd had 69 head of cattle at $835.

Kirkpatrick listed 360 acres at $3,040 and $1,125 personal, paid $129.

M. L. White listed in Louisville, 227 acres at $16.54 per acre, and listed town property at $6,490; personal $278. He had other lots and lands, but so badly scattered that we could not find them readily.

And JNO. A. MACMURPHY, for the little HERALD office which does the printing, listed the material in one small printing office (the democrats were going to duplicate it the other day for $2,000), and an old house and lot (bought at Sheriff's sale) for $950, and paid SIXTY dollars and THIRTY-EIGHT CENTS on it, all the property we had, and it would not have sold under the hammer for $2,000, or at best for over $3,000. Besides this we *paid* $69.18 of city taxes, making $129.56 of taxes to Cass county and city in '74. Do you wonder we howled taxes and tried to fight them?

Of this about $70 was personal, $11.68 for bridge tax (our share) and $14.01 of a bond tax voted before we came here, and which we are innocent of.—That year Sheldon only paid $141.14 personal; Pollard $79.35; Todd $877.34, and Kirk $31.29. Our city and county personal tax was as much as almost any of these chaps' in dollars, and ten times as much according to the real worth of the property taxed.

In '73 we paid city $47.51 and county $44.03; total $91.54.

B. S. Ramsey paid a total tax of $3.39 in '73, and only $24.21 in '74.

Gentlemen, we claim the first right to assail the taxes of this county, and we do.

NOT ONLY HERE,

but all over the State the assessment is a wrong, a fraud, a curse to honest endeavor, an embargo on the investment of capital, a clog to the laboring man, a disgrace to the manhood of citizenship, and a shame to the christian religion; for many of these men are professed christians who hold up their hands and swear to these lies.

"COMPARISONS ARE ODIOUS"

and onerous, too, in this case, so we shall let the reader mostly draw his own from the above statements, only premising that they show conclusively what we have always argued, that the extremely poor pay no taxes, for they have nothing to tax; the extremely rich men pay nothing, *comparatively*, for they hide it; and the industrious, hard-working citizen, who is striving for a home and something ahead for his family, almost literally pays the whole tax. The bone and sinew, the brains and muscle of the hardest workers, (with hand or brain,) are heaviest taxed to support the other two classes mentioned. The life blood, the energy of the nation, the men who do all and make all that renders life pleasant, who vitalize the world, and render railroads and schools, improved machinery and newspapers possible, are the ones that are asked to bear the only really onerous taxes levied.

WE HAVE NO animosity

against these men, but we propose to go to the bottom of this tax business now, and see where the trouble really lies.

It will be observed that we have taken men in all conditions of life, of different occupations and politics.

Jno. Cummins, Co. Treasurer, pays $85.48 on 60 acres of land, with good fair house and barn, (including his personal property); Pollard pays $759 on 1321 acres, with a barn that cost $7,000, house $3,000, chicken coop &c., $1,000,—$11,000 of improvements, and yet the whole amount of taxable property he gives in is only $11,620, and only $1,500 of taxable improvements.

Henry Eikenberry pays $199.31 on 200 acres, personal, &c., with very moderate improvements, Sheldon $333 on 1571 acres with good improvements.

Chas. Lazenby, a very poor man comparatively, pays $82 on 80 acres and personal, with no improvements, hardly. Todd pays $255 on 560 acres with a $3,000 dollar house, $1,500 barn and good improvements all over it.

T. W. Smyrock, a poor mechanic, pays $48, J. N. Wise, living on a salary, pays $16.42. D. H. Wheeler, and D. H. Wheeler & Co. only moderately wealthy men pay $516.18. Perry Walker on 989 acres, a better house than Wheeler's town house, and much more productive property every way, pays $226.

We could extend these comparisons indefinitely, but must close. Every reader of the paper knows just as well as we do what these lands and property are worth, and nearly how much each of these parties are truly worth, and can foot up the rest for themselves.

UNEQUAL ASSESSMENTS.

Land in Plattsmouth precinct is assessed at $17 and $18 pr acre. At Louisville, $16.54. At Greenwood and Stove Creek about the same. In Liberty and Avoca, where we have taken these lists from $5 to $8 pr acre.

Very few of the farms assessed in Greenwood and Louisville would sell for over $45 pr acre, while Pollard's, Sheldon's, Todd's, ought to bring at least $55, and worth it.

Wheeler's farm is assessed at $10 pr acre and has no improvements but a very ordinary farm house on it.

Gentlemen of the jury, how do you like this showing from the men who claim they are paying the taxes of this county?

WHERE THE TAXES COME FROM.

Five men in Plattsmouth pay over $4,000, and then don't pay on one quarter of what they ought to, for what they are worth, and Plattsmouth City and precinct pays about $14,000, the rest of the County $30,000.

This disposes of the second count in the petition as to where the taxes have been onerous and who pays the printing and other bills.

In short, the poorest mechanic in town, the smallest merchant, and the poorest day laborer on a farm, pay more taxes in proportion than Todd, Sheldon Ramsey & Co., for R. pays none hardly, and cares for nothing but to get an office, and T. S. and the rest only care to get as little on the tax list as they can and then howl at paying honest bills.

The poor farmer out in the western precincts and all over the Co. from his $5 an acre land and three or four head of cattle and horses pays the taxes of the county.

The hard working farmer who does not get time to ride round in $200 wagons and buggies, (assessed at $45,) and make speeches or spend days in badgering the Com'rs, but who has a modest $700 or $1,000 house, a shed or hay barn, and not as many improvements, at cash value, as the law exempts, is the man who *pays the taxes*.

Read it, ponder on it, men of the west, poor men, honest men; digest these facts and then ACT. You have judgment and sense enough to see where the shoe pinches. If not, come and see the HERALD and it will tell you how to inaugurate a real reform, an honest and equal reform, and yet pay each and every man an honest price for his work.

Fair pay for fair work—no sinecures and no shirkers, that's the laboring man's motto, that's a thoroughly honest man's motto.

Next week we will discuss the propriety and cost of sending the printing or any other work out of the county.

Remember, the HERALD has nothing to conceal in these matters, and when we go into reform we mean to go to the bottom let it strike friend or foe. It needs State law to right many of these things, and we shall show these matters up from now until election time and HE will think the next legislature will find something else to do besides electing a U. S. Senator.

ASSESSORS BY THE

We have before us a paper which says: "Assessors are assuming to call out" [illegible] "to sell, or give away, some kind of premiums to sell, as things for assessing purposes:

PROPOSITION

we give the list on lands per acre:"

Plattsmouth city land	$24 00
" " preec "	9 00
Book blanks	5 00
Liberty	4 00
Avoca	3 00
Mt. Pleasant	4 00
Eight-day clocks	8 00
Lithographs	2 50
Big Water	4 00
Stove Creek	3 00
South Bend	5 00
Louisville	6 00
Rock Bluffs	3 00
Greenwood	3 00
Mauley	4 00
Centre	4 00

In personal it goes on and gives assessors commissions and other property in proportion.

This list is taken bodily from the Louisville Courier of last date, and the assessors are now paid out in this manner and are circulating these and similar lists in other precincts. Assessors have been in this city and have asked for the use of a hand bill or circular to be left at every door in the county, and we have consented to let them use the office for the purpose, but we do not endorse the sentiments of the paper in question. We do not believe in the system of paying assessors by commissions, and we do not believe the people of this county will endorse such a system when they come to think of it.

As a matter of economy we could this morning assess every acre of land in this county for less money than it will cost to collect it by any number of commissioners we may choose to pay and the money to pay it with.

There are many questions for the people and the press to think about and the place of printing bids.

For years the thinking men, men of means, in the state have called attention to the waste of money in this paper and it has been finally taken up and tried to get something done.—We tried the Constitutional convention in hopes the digest of assessors and the mode of ascertaining values could be changed, but we found it was too well with the party leaders to let the legislature do anything that would reduce the patronage of the party in power.

In the Cass County there were too many interests involved to allow any good to come of it. Sheldon is the senator from Cass and he knew he could secure office and place for his friends if he would only move along in the path marked out by the party leaders. Cass County has been a democratic county for years and the party leaders in the state have made it a stepping stone to place and power for their friends.

Sheldon will vote as he is told to vote on all party measures, and he will be kept in office as long as he does what he is told to do by the party leaders.

This is why we have had no reform in this county. Sheldon's friends will work and vote for him for the reason that he is a democrat and they are democrats, and they think that what is good for the party is good for them. Sheldon is a good fellow and a good democrat, and for these reasons he is kept in office, and he will be kept in office as long as he does what he is told to do by the party leaders.

This is why we have had no reform in this county, by putting the price of assessments, we have only been following out the easy and wrong way of the law. The proper way is for the people to elect men who will make the laws for a reform in the tax law. See to it people, that they do.

Cut this out and save the paper, as we will go over these figures again.

Comparative Value of Food.

Taking flour flour as a standard of comparison it requires 100 pounds of it to supply a certain amount of nourishment. It is estimated by careful experiment, that the same amount of nourishment can be obtained by using the following quantities of food: Clover hay, 95 pounds; rye straw, 335 pounds; oat straw, 220 pounds; potatoes, 495 pounds; carrots, 253 pounds; beets, 316 pounds; ruta bagas, 232 pounds; wheat, 43 pounds; peas, 44 pounds; beans, 46 pounds; rye, 49 pounds; barley, 51 pounds; corn, 56 pounds; oats, 59 pounds; buckwheat, 64 pounds; and oil cake, 64 pounds.

Speak quick for your extras.

E. S. RAMSEY,

THIS BARE IN CASS COUNTY.

The Herald tells the Facts about the Printing Story.

The readers of the *Watchman* this week will probably see a long winded article from one B. S. Ramsey about the prices the HERALD charges for printing. Before you judge of the facts in that case we should ask all honest and unprejudiced persons to read this article—that is both sides of the question, and then you may judge as you like.

MR. RAMSEY

Will probably claim that he is only answering an article in the HERALD of February 10th, and that he has been refused admission to the HERALD because we dare not publish his bosh.

Both statements are false, as is almost every statement in his entire letter. Ramsey asked us to let him answer our article in these columns, stating that we had misrepresented him, mentioning one thing, we said he signed one bill because it was for "dirty" work, he claimed he said "nasty" work. Thinking this petrifle, but willing to give him a chance, we told him to bring in his MSS.

Instead of an answer to our article (which was largely addressed to editors and about newspapers in general, with very little about the Commissioners, as the heading shows) he brought us a letter containing such absurd statements about printing blanks and our bills, that we very justly refused to waste any more time on a man who cannot distinguish right from wrong, or who cares not what he states; for Ramsey can not escape one of these positions if he publishes that letter as we saw it.

We have not the letter here, of course and must be pardoned for not getting the exact language. After a harrowing preamble he states about this: That the HERALD charged $4 a hundred for 500 Summons, printed between the 15th of December and the 31 of January, or $40 per thousand for blanks that he could get at the Lincoln *Journal* and Omaha *Bee* offices for $1.50 per hundred or $15 per thousand.

We believe the above lays R liable to damages for malicious slander, because he endeavors to mislead the reader into believing that we charged at the rate of $40 per thousand for one kind of blanks, all printed alike.

We do not think our bills show that this number of blanks were printed between those dates, but that makes no difference. There were a large amount of blanks printed between December 1st and February 1st, and we propose to show why they were printed.

First, the 900 Summons. (If there were that many) were separate bills, different kinds of Summons, printed on different sized paper, and different and various endorsements on the back of them.

HOW THEY CAME TO BE PRINTED.

It is well known that after many delays a partial term of Court was held in December, under the old Constitution, by Judge Lake, and an adjournment made until January 11th, when it was expected Judge Pound would continue the term under the new Constitution. Instead, the new District Judges held a meeting and concluded to assign terms to the different counties. The Court in this county was set for Jan. 24th. In December when the Clerk of the Court came to make out his new papers for the new Court, under the new Constitution, he found that by that measurement the old blanks would have to be changed (Judge Lake advised all the officers to have new blanks ready in order to avoid mistakes and errors in fixing up papers which might cost the county more in one case than the whole printing of the year.) Expecting that the new Court would set January 17th, there was no time to be lost, and they rushed a number of blanks in here to be printed all at once. The Probate Judge and all officers were changed Jan. 1st, and they all wanted new blanks and piled them in. It was just at Christmas time, one of the few times when people do advertise largely if they ever do in the year, and we needed all the help we had on the paper. We dropped everything, however, and went at these blanks. With our presses we could not and did not do all of them in time. Just before Court, finding this was impossible, we went to Judge Newell and Mr. Moore and got a list of those they must have for Court and rushed them through. The others were not done until some time after.

These blanks were of various kinds, many of them will not need to be duplicated in years again, many of them have not been printed since Hathaway's time. The county was plum out of blanks. We have never done any amount of blank work for Cass County before. The county was *well stocked* when we came here.

It all happened to come just as Mr. Ramsay took his seat, and he thought of course he had found a Republican nest and refused to sign the bills. The particular bill he objects to, is about $140, and containing other items besides blanks, one the bridge report, $65, (of that again.)

The two most common blanks used are Summons and Subpoenas. These are the ones we have defrauded the County on, says R. "Let us see.

He says the *Journal* Co. offered to do them for $1.50 pr hundred. It did no such thing, that is Mr. R's mistake. It offered Mr. Ramsay such blanks as it had "in stock" at those rates. (Let him show his letter from Hathaway.) In stock means on hand just as they print them by the 5,000 or 10,000 maybe. The *Bee* says the same thing, blanks "in stock." When two blanks being much need, large offices with steam power print large quantities of them at once and sell them very cheap; we don't pretend to compete with them.

On or about Feb. 7th, a month after we were at Omaha and went to the drawers at the *Republican* office and selected twenty blanks, perhaps, for samples to show the difference between our blanks and theirs; every one of them have on them "The people of the State" &c. instead of the new form "The State of Nebr." &c. These were "in stock" there in Feb. yet.

We threw away a large amount of old blanks we would have been glad to get $1.50 or even one dollar for. Of course we lost all those. The *Journal* may have had new ones printed in Dec. but we doubt it, and if they did, neither Hathaway, nor any other printer would print them 100 at a time, all different, set up the forms each time, and fuss about the work as we did, for any $1.50 a hundred, and never offered to.

These blanks were ordered on much larger paper, heavier paper, and have more endorsements on them the blanks kept "in stock" at Omaha, Lincoln or Nebraska City. In any case, we claim to own this office and to charge such prices as we can live at and pay the people here for what we and our boys used, and if Mr. Ramsay expects to make any capital out of it he is mistaken. The Republican party of this County is not responsible for our bills nor we for the follies of the party. We propose to charge living rates for what we do and if the *Journal*, *Bee*, or *News* by means of expensive machinery, which this town won't warrant, (largely owing to the Ramseys and Todds in the County who are always fighting it) can do work cheaper, or choose to cut under each other and reduce prices to the barest living rates, they may, it is their privilege, and it is ours to conduct our business as we please. If you don't like it, Ramsey, take it somewhere else, but don't tell lies about it.

HOW WE DO CHARGE.

For two years or more M. H. Hathaway, brother of H. D., was foreman, and set the price in his foreman's book for all the work done for the county, by a list made out by H. D. Hathaway and left in the office.

We seldom looked at it, and only then to *cut down* the rates as labor and paper were cheaper.

Latterly, that on all these bills, Wm. Smyrock, a Democrat and the son of a Democrat, keeps that book and makes all the charges on such work, and we have never altered them except to cut them down, and have always told him to make them as cheap as he could.

So much for that.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

If Mr. R. had acted the gentleman, and came up and talked these things over, we would have told him all these things and gone over the bills and cut them down if we could, for we have no desire to charge the county one unjust cent.

But he must make a little more cheap capital, so he sends the City Marshal up to tell the HERALD to come down to the County House, and there in public, where a gaping crowd could hear his wise saws about economy (and after the bills were allowed by two Commissioners) he asked us to reduce them. This fact alone shows it is not reduction of expenses so much as elevation of Ramsey he is after.

Suppose the bills are high, who pays the most for them, Jno. A. MacMurphy or Ramsey, and who has caused the county the most. Let us figure that.

In 1873 Ramsey paid $3.39 taxes; in 1874, $24.21; In '73 MacMurphy paid the county $44.03 (City, $47.51); in '74 county, $59.38 (city, $69.18.)

The bill R. objects to is $140. The whole amount of printing, and it will last the county years, if they don't change the law, is about $250. If one half were profit, which is Ramsey's belief (but a gross error) that is $125.

[The facts are if we had had good luck we ought to have made 40 or $50 in this amount at fair rates. As it was we spoiled a good set of rollers and had to do the work in such a way that it is doubtful if we made much on the whole job.]

WHAT RAMSEY HAS COST THE COUNTY

Mr. R. was largely instrumental in stirring up that investigating Com.,—was a member; then he has refused to allow other bills collectable by law, and by various ways, and egged on by others, purely for political purposes, increased our expenses since he became a Commissioner. Let us see how he stands with Cass County:

HERE'S THE BILL:

B. S. RAMSEY TO CASS COUNTY DR.

To helping make extra inspectors bill on bridges	$168 00
To getting report in *both papers* tacked up on Court House	70 00
To 3 days extra time by whole Grand Jury by his motion to induce Commissioner, (this bill not in yet)	80 00
To helping to allow Moore's bill, extra ain't every one knows what I have put in at odd times, say	500 00
To starting and bothering Commissioners with nonsense and foolish objections, 2 days at least, each term of Court, say	60 00
To putting away 2 days trying to settle with Treasurer	20 00
To expense of witnesses & Sprague	15 00
Some incidentals omitted to be printedly (which and objections personally)	25 00
Total	$978 00

$79 dollars in three short months uselessly and unnecessarily added to the tax-payers to save $434 and make capital for an opposition Com'r. When the lawsuit with Moore is over (if they don't allow his bill) it will as we said, over be $1,000.

Now of this amount, for every dollar Ramsey is taxed, MacMurphy pays almost $4 (taking '73-4 as a basis) and every hard working farmer and mechanic in the county in the same proportion both as to Ramsey and Todd & Co., who are urging him on.

Look at the utter stupidity of the man. Here is his objection to Cal. Moore's bill spread on the records:

"I do not object to the allowance of his claim, but object to the law that allows the clerk such an amount for making the List."

Who ever heard of such nonsense! Because Ramsey does not approve of the law he objects to a legal bill, and puts the County to hundreds of dollars extra expense. We, too, object to the law, and think it was a put up job, but Cal Moore was not one of the clerks that put it up, and he put in a bill way below what the law allowed him at first. We object to a great many laws, but we have to wait until they can be legally repealed. We object to the law allowing fools to vote, and put in office such men as R. but we can't help ourselves until election time comes.

When he wants to fight a bill one of his favorite expressions is "Many a man in Cass Co. would be glad to work for a dollar a day."

That too is false; no man is glad to work for a dollar a day, no man who can read and write and has fair average abilities ought to work for

"A DOLLAR A DAY."

They do not in Cass Co. The man that saws our wood gets his $1.50 and two dollars a day. Only the lowest order of intellect, or enfeebled physical capacity keeps a man at "one dollar a day."

This man aspires to be a politician. What do our hard working machine shop boys say to a "dollar a day man," what the mechanics and toilers all over the country?

This country is not meant for dollar a day men. It has furnished a home to millions of burthened men who left the old shores to reach a country where men are not forced to work all their lives for a dollar a day. It is the hope, the pride of America that men of brains, of ability, of strength in any line can earn more than a dollar a day and we think God that it is so, Mr. B. S. Ramsay (O. D. D., O. T. L.

[NOTE—Get Dollar a Day, and Objects to The Law.]

TO DEMOCRATS:

We wish to say honestly, kindly, to all our democratic friends, we mean them no unkindness in the above articles. We do not intend to make the tax question, nor yet Mr. Ramsey's foolishness a party question, and if it is making you sick do it yourselves.

In all the years we say you never will and never can succeed until you elect men who know and feel that they have other duties to perform besides trying to break down republicans. This is your great error. This young man had a bright future before him; there never was so fair an opening for an honored and honestly political career.

If he had not entered that com'rs office with the idea that he was sent there to unearth some great fraud, and show that every republican official was a rascal, he might have gone onward and upward.

You can never build a party nor a character up, by trying to tear some one else down, and climb over their shoulders.

"Honor and shame from no condition rise." And it is absurd to always imagine that every republican or every democrat is a rogue. Virtue does not dwell in parties because they are parties, nor in men because they belong to one party or the other. There are honest men in both.

TO REPUBLICANS:

Gentlemen, we did not make the printing customs of this day. We would much rather you paid us for our work, by a fund for that purpose. We don't care how you raise it, but we cannot run you a party paper for fun.

There is no big pay in the work we have done. The only county printing really worth anything (the tax list) has gone to the *Walchman* for two years. Like Ramsey, we object to the law, in this, and ask you to remedy it. You must either pay us for our political work direct or you must see that we get our share of the county printing hereafter, at fair or legal rates. We ask no more and never charged more. We have no secrets about this or any other business we ever do. Our books are open, our office open, our house open. You can visit one or all, and investigate all you like and want to. We are one of those kind of people that like to be investigated. The more the better. Honest pay for honest work is our motto, and if you don't like the present custom, pay us some other way, but pay us you must, or you get no partizan paper this fall. Republican at heart we shall always be, but work for nothing for any party we will not. It is not honest. Somebody has to suffer for every hour of unpaid work done in this world.

Republican officials, this is the age of investigation. We want you to set your house in order and throw your doors open. If you have ever been crooked, straighten it up, for we shall not defend you in anything wrong.—We believe we can always reform within our own party, and we ask every man to set the example. You need not think every democrat is a rascal either. We won't agree there.

LASTLY.

Com'rs Dovey and Arnold, to you the county looks for an honest and strictly honorable economy in your management of county affairs. In behalf of our republican friends and tax-payers, we ask you to do your duty without fear or favor, but stop making useless expense, because sore-heads and chronic growlers howl fraud. We won't stand this any longer; we help pay these taxes, and we shall hold you responsible after this.

As for Mr. Ramsey, he must either take his seat and *sign* reasonable and legal bills or step down and out. We will not pay a Com'r $3 a day to sit there and cavil and snarl and try to make political capital by shirking his plain duty in signing bills and accounts. If two Com'rs can run this county, we'll pay two. If we pay three we want the third to earn his money.

Do this gentlemen, *be thoroughly honest*, but be *just*, and the HERALD *will* defend you with all the will and power and brains that God has given us.

THE MARKETS.

HOME MARKETS.

REPORTED BY WHITE & DARRAH.

Wheat	42@75
Corn	20@22
Oats	16@18