THE CHIEF.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT

RED CLOUD, NEBRASKA.

—BY—

M. L. THOMAS.

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Enclose stamp for information.

THE CHIEF.

M. L. THOMAS, - - - EDITOR.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1881.

"OLD ABE" the Wisconsin War Eagle is dead.

AN excursion will be run from Lincoln to Santa Fe New Mexico, the 20th of this month.

NEBRASKA has nearly 100,000 women of voting age. The late election shows that only one women in every hundred had any desire to be classed as a voter.

LATEST reports from the Missouri river, say that the water is slowly subsiding and no further damage is expected. The damage to property at Omaha and Council Bluffs was not very great.

We understand that when C. Borin, of the defunct Osborne County Kansas, Truth Teller was in town a few weeks ago, Doc Razee gobbled everything he had, from his hat down to his evershoes, for an old board bill of three years standing.—*Riverton Eagle.*

VENNOR, may the gods confound him, has issued his April bulletin, in which he gives us a snow storm "in the far west," on the 25th and 26th inst. As a set-off, he allows England to have a similar blizzard a day or two later. "The month," he says, "will end wet and cold."

FLAX IN NEBRASKA.

Is flax profitable in Nebraska? The FARMER thinks it is, and would like to hear from some one that has tried it. It is a quick crop and one easy to handle, always bringing a very good price.

A Mr. Tilton of New York called at the FARMER office last weed in search of information that would lead to the flax growing parts of Nebraska, as well as the amounts grown and acreage. As near as we can learn there was grown less than 100,000 bushels in the state in 1880, yet in the United States there was grown all together a little over 9,000,000 bushels, Iowa raised about twice as much as Nebraska, and Illinois, more than Nebraska and Iowa together. Kansas grows a large amount, but just how much we are unable to say. Kansas however considers flax one of her best crops. If it pays to raise it in Kansas, why will it not pay in this state. The expense of harvesting flax is no greater than that of wheat or oats, and is much easier marketed. Mr. Tilton tells us he is buying now to ship to the old country and gives it as his opinion that the flax market will be good for a number of years to come; says the demand now is much greater than the supply, and is liable to be for some time. There is one thing certain, it don't pay to raise wheat in this state, and yet it is very necessary that farmers should have some crop to turn off in the fall, and before the corn crop comes in, and if flax is more profitable than wheat or oats. it is the crop for our farmers to raise. We should be pleased to hear from some of those that have tried flax culture in Nebraska, and will be pleased to publish any information we can get.—*Neb. Farmer.*

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE.
LINCOLN, NEB., April 4, 1881.

To people of Nebraska:

With the return of more genial days, after a winter of unusual severity, it is a pleasing duty to announce the approach of Arbor Day, which, by official recognition and established custom, is set apart and devoted to tree planting throughout the State of Nebraska. The common welfare requires unremitting zeal in this direction. It seems needless however, to suggest the benefits that may be derived from an abundant growth of timber on our prolific prairies.

Therefore, in harmony with the action of the State Board of Agriculture, I, Albinus Nance, Governor of the State of Nebraska, do hereby designate the third Wednesday of April, 1881. to be especially devoted to planting forest, fruit and ornamental trees, vineyards, shrubs and flowers—combining the useful and the beautiful in improving and beautifying our homes; and in the performance of this agreeable duty, I invite the co-operation of all classes and professions, requesting everyone to plant dilligently on the day designated and on every other favorable occasion during the early days of spring.

Let it be remembered that those who plant trees build living monuments to their own industry, and are benefactors of mankind while benefitting themselves.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the State of Nebraska. Done at Lincoln this 4th day of April, A. D. 1881.

[SEAL.] ALBINUS NANCE, Gov.
S. J. ALEXANDER, Sec'y of State.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON April 9, 1881.

The Capitol at the present time is the office seeker's Mecca. Hither have gathered the patriots who manifest intense enthusiasm in their efforts to get a Post Office at the corners or secure some place where they can be fed out of the government crib. Let me give your readers a picture of one seance, at the White House. At ten o'clock we are met at the outside door by the smiling attendant who bids us good morning, and in our innocence we enter congratulating ourselves that we have the start of the hungry horde, but passing through the Hall and up the stairs to the executive waiting room we find ourselves egregiously sold, for the crowd is there and has taken possession of every seat, while numbers are standing, smoking, filling the room and halls with reeking fumes of cheap cigars. One shows the obliging clerk whose duty it is to listen to the wants of and woes of this motley crowd, his papers, which bear the endorsement in strange hieroglyphics of the member of the Pat. Murphy Lie Awakes declaring that he is just the man to be Postmaster at Hardscrabble. Another has the signatures of all the good men in his town. They really hope that the President will send him to one of the Cannibal Isles or anywhere else. Utterly useless community can spare him and no one will miss him or mourn his absence when he has gone. Here is a woman who wants an extra session of Congress. She is talking and waiting. Past girlhood and well into the forties. She is not handsome, has four front teeth that have been dropped somewhere. She carries a paper box full of documents and is able to satisfy the president in just two minutes that an extra session is necessary. Here is a man who looks strange and haggard. He has a patent for saving the nation and he must see the President "right away." The good natured attendant assures him that it is impossible and suggests that he put his wishes on paper which he proceeds to do and hands in ten pages of foolscap to be consigned to the Presidential waste basket. The most confirmed opponent of civil service will be satisfied in an hour's visit to the Executive Mansion or to the offices of members of the Cabinet, that a check must be put upon this greed for office by a fixity of its tenure, based on competency and good behaviour. The country can never stand this strain when its population shall have reached 100,000,000 and the Nation's life will be more and more endangered until the brakes are applied.

Postmaster-General James has a letter from Dr. Slaghorn, the postmaster-general of the German Empire, congratulating him upon his promotion to the head of the postal service of the United States, a compliment that is the more valuable from the fact that it is purely personal and without the formality which attends official correspondence.

McVeagh, like Mrs. Partington's Ike, never opens his mouth but he puts his foot in it. That he did try to bluff the President by saying that he could not remain in the Cabinet if the appointment of W. E. Chandler was made, is without doubt true, and it is apparent that he would now like to find an easy way of taking it all back; Chandler however will not ask to have his name withdrawn to please McVeagh, nor is the President willing he should do so. It may as well be considered settled, in the outset, that General Garfield is to be President.

The Senate galleries are packed every day with visitors who watch with interest the movements of the Democratic obstructionists. Senator Mahone, small in stature but full of eloquence, is firing hot shot into the bourbon camp. He declares, that the day of bourbon serfdom in Virginia is past, and the balance of his life shall be given in defence of a free and untrammelled ballot, and of the right of every man to have his vote counted.

Mr. J. S. Brown, the President's private secretary, is a native of this city, the son of a carpenter. His Sunday-school teacher inspired him to aim higher than carpenter's work and gave him instruction in Latin which the boy learned at night after handling carpenter's tools through the day. After a year or two of study he advised him to learn short-hand. To this art he devoted himself with patience and industry, always practising after the day's labor. Thus he worked on till at length he was employed by Garfield to write for him evenings. Being expert he was engaged to go to Mentor, where he survived the office-hunters; and moves up to a salary of $3,200 per year. He has also acquired an interest in a sheep ranch at Ivanpah, Greenwood County, Kansas. He is of the right stuff to make himself felt in the world.

Our streets are still thronged with Congressmen and these bright balmy days their ladies are seen riding or promenading our avenues. The reason why so many members with their families linger here is that the weather is still to severe for them to return to their Northern homes, especially in cases where their wives or daughters are delicate.

The private carriage of ex-President Hayes is still seen on our streets having been left on his retiring from the White House for the incoming President for a month, mindful of the inconvenience he himself was at during the first few weeks by this incumbency.

PHARS.

Women's Column.

This column is set apart for the use of the women of the county and they all have an equal right to use the same in the discussion of any question of interest to the sex. The editor of this paper will not hold himself responsible for anything that may appear in this column, or for the views and opinions of correspondents.

School Suffrage.

"Westward the star of everything takes its way," writes a Boston friend, and I am reminded of this by comparing the action of the last legislature in Maine and Nebraska. In Maine a bill conferring school-suffrage on women, although supported by a petition sixty yards long with a double row of names was indefinitely postponed amid "loud applause." In Nebraska, the woman-suffrage amendment was passed by a majority of forty-six of those voting upon it, and the bill allowing women to vote at school election was passed without a word being said against it.

The new school law is a complete change in many respects. It was prepared by a gentleman who has made educational systems a study, and who has been from the early history of our state associated with its educational progress, and it is doubtless as the result of his convictions of the necessities of our schools that he has embodied in the law provisions enabling all women owning property or having children of school age to vote in all school matters.

So the women of Nebraska have had greatness thrust upon them and now are they ready to enter upon their new privileges with appreciation and enthusiasm?

Even under the drawbacks of our present school system, owing to the liberality of the state and the faithful exertions of the teachers, every child of a good constitution and strong determination may obtain a fair education, but to every thoughtful educator and observer, the question must recur, are the results obtained adequate to the outlay?

Mrs. Diaz says "whosoever would be tranquil, let him not investigate," and this is true with regard to our public schools. By not investigating very largely, we have been able to maintain a tranquil conviction that "whatever is, is right," and a patriotic Fourth of July belief the public schools of America are the particular institution which is to place and hold her in the van of nations. Meanwhile the facts are that several foreign countries have superior advantages and better results; that private schooling in our land, even among those who can illy afford the expense, is largely on the increase, owing to a belief that the public schools are hurtful in many ways, the graded schools in the cities, while admirable in theory, prove a veritable treadmill to both teachers and pupils, that truancy or total neglect is fearful common; that the health of the pupil is broken down, and special organs as those of sight and speech injured perhaps for life; catarrh and other serious troubles induced by the bad air; the morals are contaminated and depraved habits allowed, and sometimes the mind is permanently weakened by the monotonous strain. By the time the pupils have reached an age when these circumstances would be less injurious, they are probably weary of the dismal routine, and entirely disgusted with study, the majority of them escape from the restraints of the school, with a bare smattering knowledge, without faculties trained for sturdy application in the face of difficulties, and without an enthusiasm for learning ever having been awakened.

These are the evils of our system in general terms. In some sections these are exceptional disadvantages. In others individual faithfulness has produced better results. Women are now beginning to share the responsibilities of school management, for they are now allowed to vote on school matters in fifteen states and territories, and a great work may be done for the next generation if women of wisdom and leisure will open their eyes to the evils that exist, trace them to their causes, and lend a hand to rectify them. The first duty of the women of Nebraska in this direction is by their votes at the coming election to see that the government of the schools is placed in the hands of those most fitted for it by education and conscience.

CLARA B. COLBY.

Beatrice, Nebraska.

THE suffrage sisterhood cannot be greatly encouraged by the winter's work. In many of the states bills have been introduced looking to the giving in some form or other of the elective franchise to women, but in no state has such legislation been perfected, nor is there likelihood of its accomplishments at present.—*Chicago Times.*

A similar statement has been made by the New York *Times* and copied by the Chicago *Tribune;* and now the *Times*, which was once a newspaper, repeats it. If the *Times* cares to state the facts, let it chronicle the fact that the legislature of Nebraska, by a three-fifths vote, has submitted a suffrage amendment to the popular vote; and if the *Times* desires to be not without honor as a prophet both in its own country and abroad, it might venture the prediction that the amendment will be adopted by the necessary constitutional majority of the popular vote.—*Omaha Republican.*

1881 1881

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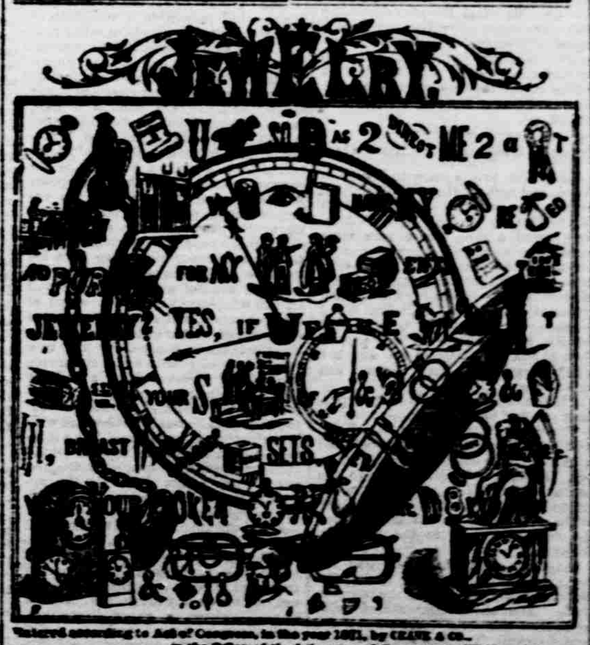

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