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VOL. 17.

RED CLOUD, WEBSTER COUNTY, NEB., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1890.

No. 28.

TIME TABLE.	
Time table No. 11 to take effect Nov. 23d, 1889.	
WEST VIA HASTINGS.	
No. 122 passenger to Hastings leaves daily except sun day	6: a.m.
No. 123 freight to Hastings daily	1:30 p.m.
No. 131 passenger from " daily ex-cept Sunday	5:30 p.m.
No. 132 freight from Hastings daily ar-rives	10:30 p.m.
HAST VIA WYMORE.	
No. 16, passenger to St. Joseph daily leaves	10:30 a.m.
No. 60 passenger to Kansas City daily	10:35 p.m.
No. 15 passenger from " Joseph daily arrives	8:30 p.m.
No. 16 passenger from Kansas City arrives	2:30 a.m.
No. 27 freight daily except Tuesday ar-rives	10:45 a.m.
No. 28 freight daily except Sunday	11: p.m.
WYMORE VIA DENVER.	
No. 19 passenger to Denver daily leaves	2:30 a.m.
No. 23 passenger to Denver daily arrives	2:30 p.m.
No. 18 passenger from St. Joseph ar-rives daily	10:22 a.m.
No. 19 passenger from Kansas City daily arrives	10:30 p.m.
No. 22 freight for Denver leaves daily except Sunday	6:00 a.m.
No. 23 freight from Denver, daily ex-cept Sunday arrives	8:30 p.m.
No. 24 according to Oberlin.	
Tues Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.	
A. CONOVER, Agent.	

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The Problem for the Farmers.

(By W. A. WILSON.)

We wish to call the attention of your readers to the transportation question, in connection with farm products. We are free to admit the possibility that we are wrong in our conclusions, and we do not care to enter into a discussion of the matter with anyone, unless they are willing to make the same admissions on their part. In talking with business men and farmers we find a great variety of opinions as to the cause of the low price of grain. Men talk of what the farmers could do if they could get a paying price for their grain, and we find that nearly all of them blame the R. R. Companies for our failure to do so. No 2 corn is selling in Chicago at \$1.00 per bushel. Nebraska farmers are from \$40 to \$60 miles from that market and we must expect to pay a reasonable rate for the transportation of our corn, besides allowing our shipper a fair profit for handling it. We believe the rate from Red Cloud to Chicago as given by "Farmer" is corn 14¢ freight, 10¢ per bushel for softening, 1½¢ per bu. freight and commission, deduct this from the Chicago price and our dealers have 12¢ left to pay the farmer and make their profit. We conclude that the low price of corn is not the fault of our dealers. "Farmer" would have us believe that after the defeat of a certain resolution that the "Corporations concluded to extort from us every dollar that could be wrung from us." We believe that the R. R. Co. had concluded to extort from us every dollar that could be wrung out of us several years before the defeat of said resolution. A few years ago the rate on corn from Red Cloud to Chicago was 25¢ per bushel, if we had the same rate now, No 2 corn would be worth 10¢ per bushel, provided that the shipper made no profit of his time and trouble. We do not think that the rates are higher now than before the defeat of the resolution spoken of by "Farmer." He must not draw on his imagination quite so strong if he expects farmers to have much faith in his statements. We agree with him that freight is too high, however we do not agree with him that the "one great and only important question is the transportation question." We believe that it is one of the great questions for the farmers to look after. If we could compel the railroad companies to take our crop to Chicago for less per bushel, with commission and small profits to the shipper, we could realize 16¢ net, in our market here. Estimating that corn would be raised and put in the crib at 12 cents per bushel, we find that we could have 6 cents per bushel for shelling and hauling it to market. Forty acres, at an average yield of 25 bushels per acre is a fair average yearly production for one man, this at 12 cents will give \$120, not enough to pay the expenses on the investment necessary to the production, and leave the farmer fair pay for his labor and the board of self and team. We do not believe that corn could be sold at a profit under existing circumstances, if freight were reduced one half. (If we feel it to merit we assume the additional cost from accidents and disease.) This is true of wheat, oats, rye, barley and all the staple products of Nebraska. Newspaper and professional men offer as many suggestions, and give as much advice, they tell us to raise broomcorn and sorghum, it requires too much labor and seed material to raise enough corn to sell to a market that does

not give \$20 to \$30 per ton, less than cost. If we want aid in the raising of corn it would become a drag on the market. We could produce more sorghum in Kansas and Nebraska than the entire country could afford a market for. Farmers are suffering from a variety of wrongs, and if any man ever leads them out of the wilderness he will be a man of more than one idea and with a higher ambition that to pull some other fellow down. If congress and our state legislature do not furnish speedy relief, the farmers will raise a crop of political Cain that will vindicate his folly.

Governments are amongst the most imperfect of human inventions. From these imperfections the line gets rich and many suffer great wrongs. Our government is no exception to this rule, and while we strive to control railroad companies the more we can expect is to get reasonable rates. A reasonable rate would be one that would allow them a fair return on the money actually invested in building, keeping in repair, and operating the lines. If we fix a rate on two that they can go into the world and show that it is not a reasonable rate, we fail. The difference in the cost to different lines and the conditions under which they are operated, must be considered.

A rate that would be fair on the R. R. now, might not be a fair rate next year. To determine the cost of building and operating all the different lines of railroads is an entirely different thing. Most of those who have given the subject their attention do not believe that congress can fix an inflexible rate on inter-state commerce that would stand the test of the courts, and that the different legislative bodies of the different states cannot fix an arbitrary rate from the different points in their several states. Congress and most of the state legislatures have adopted the commission plan, believing that a commission, with power to examine the books and accounts, the attendance (as it appears) of the officers and employees of those corporations would enable the commissioners to get the information necessary in order to fix just and reasonable rates and to change the same whenever circumstances required. With all its imperfections we are not prepared to say that the commission plan is not the best.

(Continued next week.)

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