

# THE CHIEF

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### Judge Barnes.

It is a matter of comment that those who know Judge Barnes best are his warmest supporters, and it is believed that as the people of the state come to know him better his chances for a big, rousing majority will increase.

At home his ability is well recognized, his popularity is unquestioned and his home life is greatly admired. His position in the community is secure and his support by his neighbors will unquestionably be hearty and sincere.

When he was actively engaged in the practice of law he was one of the attorneys sought in cases requiring extra keenness and ability, and especially those that were likely to end in the supreme court, in which he is now to be chosen as one of the judges. Knowing so well how to conduct a case before that body, and his service during the past two years as one of the commissioners have fitted him for the position he now aspires to occupy, most thoroughly.

Judge Barnes has taken the highest degree in Masonry and is prominent in that order. He is as much at home at a tennis court or a base ball game as before a court of justice, and all these qualities will speak for him now that he is before the people of the state as a candidate for one of the highest honors in its gift.

Judge Barnes was born in 1846 in Ashtabula county, Ohio, on a farm. His early years were spent as those of most farmer boys. When old enough he taught school in the winters and continued farming summers. When seventeen years old he enlisted in battery E of the First Ohio light artillery, the date being January 1, 1864. He served more than half of a three years' enlistment, being mustered out July 10, 1865.

The judge was educated in the common schools of Ohio and at the Grand River institute at Austinsburg, Ohio. He studied law in a law office in Jefferson, O., coming to Nebraska in the spring of 1871. He has lived here over thirty two years. He was admitted to the bar and commenced the practice of law at Ponca, where he lived more than seventeen years. He

then moved to Norfolk, where he has lived more than fifteen years. The judge was married in November of 1871 and has three sons, each one a graduate of the State university. John B. Barnes, jr., is superintendent of the city schools of Tekamah and has been admitted to the bar of Nebraska. Guy W. Barnes, the second son, is in the employ of the American Beet Sugar company at Norfolk, having graduated in the scientific department at the State university. Alfred Kimball Barnes, the third son, is a fellow and one of the instructors in the department of philosophy in the university. He graduated in 1902.

Judge Barnes has had a long and honorable career as a lawyer and public official. He was elected district attorney for the Sixth judicial district of the state when the constitution of 1875 was adopted. At the expiration of his term he was again elected and served until January of 1879. He was then appointed judge of the district to succeed E. K. Valentine, who was elected to congress. He was nominated and elected judge of the district in the fall of 1879 and served the full term, which expired January 1, 1884. He declined a renomination and turned his attention to the active practice of law, engaging in general practice. He was appointed to the supreme court commission January 1, 1902, and is now a member.

Judge Barnes has always been an active, ardent republican and has attended every republican convention since and including the one held in 1872.

### Away With The Calamity Howlers.

The best indication that the fall campaign is on in a dozen states is found in the whoops of the calamity howlers.

They predict hard times. They assert that the country is on the verge of a financial crash that will starve the world and open the soup kitchens. And they call it argument, when it is mostly tommyrot, and always dangerous.

It is a trick that is confined to no party or locality.

It is depended on to help the outs to get in.

It isn't fair to the people, who deserve every minute of prosperity they can possibly secure.

Hard times can be made by scaring folks. Overproduction and extravagance may hasten their coming, but the big element in making the public afraid to spend money, even for what they need, is fear, lack of confidence, distrust in the permanency of the weekly pay envelope.

The man who continually tries to make the public feel poor does harm. He is responsible for much of the woe that comes with a temporary paralysis of business.

A man eats too much, he drinks more than is good for his stomach. He overworks and overindulges. Sickness comes to him in consequence as sure as day follows night. He learns something, for experience teaches more than books, and he is slow to do again the things that made him ill.

A nation is like a man. It is taught by its ills. Perhaps the United States is eating too much and living too high. Perhaps, some day, disease will follow dissipation, but we are learning; we are growing wiser, and it is not too much to believe that some day sane methods and accumulated wisdom will result in the abolishing of the times of depression that have come periodically in the past.

Business is good. There is some poverty, some financial tangles, some industrial unrest. Not every man has been able to find work at paying wages.

But take the country as a whole it is in fine condition, and it may be—it is to be hoped—that it will be many years before the clouds shut out the sun.

We need optimists, not calamity howlers.

We need them in business, in politics, in the homes.

It is always well to walk carefully and live sanely, but don't scare the people, for the future looks bright.

### J. W. James for Judge.

J. R. Mercer of Red Cloud made a strong fight for the republican nomination for judge at the Kearney convention, and lost, but there are no sore spots. J. W. James of Hastings, the nominee, is a gentleman in every way qualified to fill the office. Mr. James was born in Henry county, Iowa, and received his education and early training in that state. He followed the life of a farmer until 18 years of age and attended Mount Pleasant academy, afterward teaching school. In 1888 he graduated from the law department of the University of Iowa. On completing his law course he removed to Dundy county, Nebraska, and opened a law office. He served three terms as county attorney of Dundy county, twice by election and once by appointment. Six years ago he moved to Hastings and began the practice of law. Mr. James is a man of conservative temperament and a Christian gentleman, and is held in high esteem in his home town.

## Triple Murder in Kansas

Mrs. Eliza Payne, Mrs. Eda Williamson and Mattie Williamson Slain.

"Missouri Tom" Madison, the Murderer, Still at Large.

One of the most shocking tragedies in the history of this section of the country since the Indian massacres occurred Tuesday night in Smith county, Kansas, about thirteen miles southwest of Red Cloud. Two women and a girl of thirteen years lie dead as a result of the insane passion of one man for the wife of another man.

The victims of the tragedy are Mrs. Eliza Payne, aged 57, whose husband, H. H. Payne, died last April; her daughter, Mrs. Eda Williamson, aged 31, and Mrs. Williamson's daughter, Mattie, aged 12.

All the evidence points to Thomas Madison, a farm hand in the employ of Elmer Spurrier, as the perpetrator of the terrible crime.

So far as can be learned, Madison, who has been working for Elmer Spurrier this season, had become infatuated with Mrs. Williamson and had persisted in paying her lover-like attentions. Mrs. Williamson has been separated from her husband, C. S. Williamson, for about three years, and was suing him for divorce in the courts of Smith county. The trial of the case had been set for Wednesday, the day after the murder. It is said that Madison had urged Mrs. Williamson to marry him when she had secured a divorce from her husband, but this she had declined to do.

The house in which the tragedy occurred is a two-room stone structure, separated from another like structure by only a few feet. The two buildings had formerly been connected by a log structure, which has recently been torn down. The foundation for a new home had just been completed a little way to the northeast of the old home, and part of the lumber was on the ground.

In the building to the east was a kitchen and a bedroom, occupied by Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Williamson and Miss Williamson.

The building to the west was occupied by Frank Bozarth and wife, brother-in-law and sister of Mrs. Williamson.

The method of procedure followed by the murderer showed that the crime had been carefully planned and executed. Tuesday afternoon Madison had been hanging around the Payne home, claiming that he wished to see Frank Bozarth. Madison tried to persuade Mr. and Mrs. Bozarth and Mrs. Payne to attend a watermelon party to be given Tuesday night at the home of a neighbor, J. W. Corbett, but they declined. It is evident that he wished to have them out of the way in order that he might have as little interference as possible in carrying out his murderous designs against Mrs. Williamson.

Sometime during the night or early morning the murderer entered the room where the three women were sleeping, all in one bed. Armed with the "shank" of a cultivator, an iron bar about eighteen inches long, the murderer made entrance through an unlocked door and proceeded to wreak his vengeance on the object of his unrequited affections. A single blow from the weapon used would have been sufficient to cause death, but the murderer did not rest until he had beaten the heads and countenances of his victims into unrecognizable shapes.

The murder was discovered about 6 o'clock Wednesday morning by Frank Bozarth. When he entered the house he found his mother-in-law, Mrs. Payne, and his niece, Mattie Williamson, lying on the bed in a pool of blood. Mrs. Williamson could not be found.

The little girl was dead, but Mrs. Payne was still breathing, though unconscious. Gordon Payne, who lives about a quarter of a mile north of the scene of the tragedy, was immediately notified and went to the home of his mother. After a few minutes' search Mr. Payne found the mutilated body of his sister in a small hollow about a hundred yards east of the scene of the murder, where she had evidently been carried by the murderer in an attempt to conceal his crime.

Sheriff Agnew, of Smith Center, was immediately notified of the tragedy, as well as Coroner Bilby of Kensington. Dr. Morrison of Womer was summoned to attend to the injuries of Mrs. Payne and make an attempt to revive her in order that she might be able to give an account of the tragedy and name the murderer if possible, but all efforts in that direction failed and she died at 2 o'clock Wednesday



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afternoon without having regained consciousness. The tragedy probably occurred between midnight Tuesday and 1:30 a. m. Wednesday, as Madison returned to the Spurrier home about 2 o'clock in the morning and took from there a suit of clothes belonging to him. The clothes which he wore during the day and at the time of committing the crime could not be found, with the exception of a white hat, covered with blood stains, which was found at the Spurrier place, about half a mile west of the Payne home. Blood stains were also found on the edge of a water tank at Spurrier's, where Madison had probably made an attempt to wash away the evidences of his crime.

Word of the tragedy was brought to Red Cloud about 1 o'clock Wednesday afternoon and caused considerable excitement on the streets. Sheriff McArthur immediately started for Inavale, where the murderer has relatives, and where he was reported to have been seen Wednesday morning. Sheriff Agnew of Smith county also started in pursuit of Madison.

Yesterday it was reported that Madison had been surrounded in a cornfield near Inavale, and later it was said that he had been seen traveling in a northeasterly direction. Wednesday night Madison stopped at Roy Matkins' place, about eight miles west of Red Cloud, where he changed his pants, leaving his blood-stained ones when he left.

This morning Madison went to the home of W. R. Anderson, four miles south and a mile east of Bladen, and made entrance to the house by kicking in a window. After compelling the Andersons to get breakfast for him he again set out, supposedly for Dewese, where he has a sister.

Madison is said to be heavily armed and carrying a good supply of ammunition, and those in pursuit will undoubtedly have trouble when they try to arrest him.

The murderer probably made his escape on foot, as no one in the neighborhood has missed a horse.

C. S. Williamson, husband of the murdered woman, was in Red Cloud yesterday and stopped at the Holland house, but could throw no light on the mystery of the murder. He declined to discuss his wife's suit for divorce, and left Red Cloud for the scene of the murder.

The funeral services for the victims of the triple tragedy will be held this (Friday) afternoon at 3 o'clock from the Oriole school house, near Sherwood, Kan.

An inquest was held Wednesday afternoon at the scene of the murder and the following is the verdict of the jury:

LOGAN TOWNSHIP,  
SMITH COUNTY, KANSAS.

We, the coroner's jury on the case of Mrs. Eliza Payne, Mrs. Eda Williamson and Mattie Williamson believe that they came to their death by a cultivator shank and shovel in the hands of one Thos. Madison.

A. D. McMURRAY,  
G. W. McMURRAY,  
P. S. FAIR,  
J. C. BOZARTH,  
W. F. WILLIAMS,  
WM. RELIHAN.

While it is admitted that Judge Adams is a very popular man among all classes, this is not a populist year, and J. W. James of Hastings will undoubtedly be elected along with the balance of the republican ticket.

It is still nearly two months until election, but the republican nominees are not idle and the pops and democrats will come into the campaign badly handicapped.

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