

Thirteenth Judicial.

Big Western District
—It's Leading Candidate.

The Thirteenth judicial district of Nebraska lacks considerable of being as large as the Fifteenth, but is nevertheless big enough to make a state like Rhode Island or Delaware. The populist candidate, A. F. Parsons, of North Platte, has for a number of years been the junior partner of ex-Congressman Neville in the law firm of Neville & Parsons. Judge Parsons, it will be remembered, was an active participant in the Denver conference and was chairman of the last populist state convention at Grand Island. He is a thorough lawyer, a strong man on the stump, and best of all, he is everywhere regarded as an upright, conscientious man.

Although the friends of Judge Parsons are willing to rest their case upon his qualifications for the responsible office of district judge, the Independent believes that a fair investigation of the record of his republican opponent, Judge Grimes, the present incumbent, now serving his second term, would give additional reasons for the election of Judge Parsons.

In making this investigation, let us take republican testimony, invoking the legal maxim that an admission against one's interest may safely be considered as true. The North Platte Evening Telegraph, in its issue of July 29, 1903, speaking of Judge Grimes, said editorially:

"Judge Grimes seems to be over-anxious to be continued in office for a third term, and it is very proper to inquire as to his official record during his past service as judge. Forty-seven of his decisions have been taken to the supreme court and twenty of them reversed. In Perkins county five of his decisions went to the supreme court, all of which were reversed, and he was reversed twice in one case. In Logan county six of his decisions were appealed to the supreme court and five of them were reversed. When it is understood that some ten or twelve of the cases thus taken to the supreme court were real estate foreclosures, appealed for the sole purpose of obtaining time for the owner to pay his mortgage, it can readily be seen that about sixty per cent of the judge's decisions that were contested were turned down by the highest judicial

tribunal in the state. It is doubtful if there is another district in Nebraska where such a large per cent of judicial decisions have been reversed. Such a record does not appeal very strongly to us as evidence entitling Judge Grimes to a third term. A third term in office is sometimes given to a judge who, while in office, abandons politics entirely and attends strictly to his judicial duties, but a judge who is continually chasing after some political office while on the bench never got a third term except by political promises and trading with candidates for other offices."

Grimes is a typical politician of a well-known school. He is always willing to sacrifice himself for his country! He was for one term register of the United States land office at North Platte and is now serving his second term as district judge—having drawn upwards of \$32,000 salary as his part of the "sacrifice." But he is ever alert for other ways of immolating himself upon the shrine of his country, and last year promised the republican politicians of Lincoln county that if they would give him the congressional delegation without a fight, he would not be a candidate again for district judge. The politicians accepted this and gave him the delegation—but Grimes kept his part of the compact by capturing the nomination for judge, after failing to land the congressional.

Down in Perkins county, Judge Grimes will have a hard row to hoe. A brace of horse thieves stole twenty-one horses in that county, ran them off to Wray, Colo., and from there shipped them to South Omaha and sold them. They were captured and arraigned for trial. Judge Parsons assisted the county attorney to prosecute them, and they were convicted. Judge Grimes sentenced them to three years in the penitentiary! Stockmen wonder how long it will take to stop horse-stealing at that rate.

The Independent hopes to see Judge Parsons elected by a good majority. The people of the Thirteenth district need him on the bench. His election will put a check to horse and cattle thievery, just as Judge Westover's election did up in the Fifteenth.

Custer County

Republican extravagance in the legislature of 1903 necessitated increased revenues in order to keep the already big state debt from climbing still higher. Hence, the new revenue law was so framed that most of the increase should fall on the farmers. But this law was not operative in 1903 and the levy and assessment were made under the old law, except that a 7-mill levy was permitted for the general fund, instead of 5 as heretofore.

Custer county farmers and business men must this year pay 91.5 per cent heavier state taxes than last year; railroads are let off with an increase of 88.5 per cent. Custer county assessors added \$170,940.88 to the assessed valuation of the farmers' property, while the republican state board is to be credited with adding \$19,820.22 to the railroad assessments—about \$2 to the assessors' \$17.

Last year the rate of state levy was only 4½ mills. Why, nobody seems to know. This year it is 8 mills. Last year's state tax was \$11,369.84, divided as follows:

Railroads	\$1,390.23
Others	9,979.51
This year's state taxes are \$21,729.12 divided thus:	
Railroads	\$ 2,630.26
Others	19,108.87

There wasn't anything to vote for last year in Custer—no state issues; and the farmers of Custer must pay about \$9,000 for the fun they had shucking corn election day, 1902.

Adams County

Adams county farmers have good reason to feel satisfied with their corn-shucking industry on election day last year—but, of course, they have to pay

for it in increased taxes. This year the precinct assessors raised the assessed valuation of property belonging to farmers and other small business men exactly \$242,588 over the assessment of 1902. And the republican state board lowered the assessment of railroads in Adams county \$17,740.02.

The state levy against Adams county is 9 mills this year as against 7 last year—in order to cover the extraordinary heavy appropriations of the railroad legislature of 1903. Hence, Adams county is called upon this year to pay \$24,828.66 state taxes as against \$19,137.34 last year, an increase of \$5,691.42. Of this increase the farmers and small business men will pay \$4,483.12; the railroads, \$1,208.30. The farmer's state tax is 31.2 per cent heavier than it was last year; the railroads will pay only 25.2 per cent more than they did in 1902. Such is the benefit of republican rule—to the railroads!

BACK AT THE WHITE HOUSE

President Roosevelt Returns From Oyster Bay, Resuming His Duty He Finds

SCANDALS IN DEPARTMENT

Which Were Presided Over By Men Believed to be Thoroughly Honest

Theodore Roosevelt will be nominated by the republicans at the next national convention without question. He will be at his post in the White house, and the people will continue to believe him upright as well as capable. Nevertheless some of the departments at the capitol appear to be honey-combed with rotteness. It is to his credit that he spares none found guilty or discredited. Like General Grant, in the days when star route thieves and whiskey scandals were be-

Now Ready for Distribution.



Send for a Copy at Once if you Buy from Catalogue

Farm Insurance. Fire, Lightning, Windstorms

On Live Stock, Dwellings, Out Buildings & Contents.

Farmers and Merchants Ins. Co.

Lincoln, Nebr. Established in 1885.

Losses Paid to Patrons Over Three-Quarters of a Million. Security to Policy Holders \$354,175.54.

No assessments. Assured assumes no liability. If there is no agent in your town write direct to the company.

ing uncovered, Roosevelt says LET NO GUILTY MAN ESCAPE.

It is unfortunate for his administration that speculation should be found in high places. It is discouraging to think that men entrusted with high duties should prove unfaithful, but the stability of our system of government and the virility of our executive is demonstrated by the fact that the wickedness discovered is to be punished.

THE BANKERS RESERVE LIFE believes in the honesty of men in general. It stands for the idea that more men resist temptation than yield to temptation. The hope of America is in this great fact of American history. Meanwhile honesty and skill are rewarded. Business sagacity and common honesty are not adverse to each other. Both are more common than cupidity and incompetency. The doctrine that every man has his price is villainous and unworthy, and no honest man can consent to it under any circumstances.

B. H. ROBISON, PRESIDENT of the Bankers Reserve Life, invites the most searching investigation into the methods of the company he represents. It has over \$6,500,000 of good risks, and by December 31 will pass the \$7,000,000 mark. The company wants capable men for its rapidly extending field of operations. A hundred good men are immediately needed to complete the agency corps.

Always mention The Independent when writing to our advertisers.

The Latest Talking Machine. The Vitaphone.

Price, \$2.50.



Simple. Durable.

And plays all disk records. Send for one today to help pass away the long winter evenings. Write us for our large list of disk records. Catalogue of household specialties and novelties.

BUREAU OF TRADE.

P. O. Box 968. Lincoln, Neb.

WANTED

We are in the market to buy Alfalfa Seed Clover, Bromus Inermis, Millet and Cane seed. Farmers and others who have any of the above seeds will do well to correspond with us before selling. Shall be pleased to have samples and offers at any time. Address,

RATEKINS' SEED HOUSE, Shenandoah, Iowa.

GREEN GABLES

The Dr. Benj. F. Bailey SANATORIUM.

For treatment of nervous diseases, diseases of women, rheumatism, and in fact all non-contagious diseases. All baths and electric currents useful in treatment of sick. Massage and physical culture. This is the largest, best equipped and most beautifully furnished sanatorium in the west. Write for particulars. Address

Dr. Benj. F. Bailey Sanatorium, Lincoln, Nebraska.