

The Hemingford Herald.

VOL. 1

HEMINGFORD, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, DEC. 27, 1895.

NO. 44

WILL USE FORCE

IN THE LEGISLATURE, SO SAYS THE GRIP, AND IN THE SAME ISSUE DECLARES THE AGITATION DESTRUCTIVE TO THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY.

The wail of the Grip about county seat removal petitions regarding the building up of the county comes with grace from a paper located at the seat of war. If it retards development why did you start the ball rolling? Hemingford did not start it, so the blame all lies upon your own heads. "That if beaten Alliance would go to the legislature, and with force and influence have the law changed," is in keeping with the "might makes right" tactics employed by Alliance, but there is an old saying that "it is hard telling where a blind toad will jump," and Alliance may find out that force in legislatures is a poor weapon to use in America—it is often a boomerang. The article is a mass of mistakes; it blames Hemingford for not letting the election come off to settle the matter, then declares it will contest it with force at the legislature, figuring that a few pious wails about the destructive agitation of the public mind, etc., would make a good prelude to the fabrication they expect to spring on the legislature. It gives an eulogy to Hemingford holding odds at present, and then gives a dying utterance about getting the fight out of the way before spring. If you want it out of the way let it stay where it rightfully belongs, and not by force and might attempt to change the location. Hemingford is in the fight to stay, but it is only because Alliance forced the fight on to the Hemingford people. Having gone into it, we are here to stay, and stay we will until the last dog is hung, but if Alliance wishes to quit, to say she is sorry she spoke, and drop the agitation, which she claims is so destructive to the welfare of the county, there is no law against her doing so. If the Grip is in earnest in wishing the agitation stopped, as the article says, and to have the interest of the county at heart, (she must be, if the article is truthful about the destructiveness of it) then it is easy to do. Just let the county seat stay where it is, and the agitation is over. Alliance only cares for Alliance, in fact she can't see anything on God's green earth but Alliance, and that is what causes the agitation. Think of these threats of force, might, etc., so often used by the newspaper men of the little, railroad town.

The Pioneer Grip and Alliance Times both have statements as to the cost to the taxpayers, by the removal of the county seat to Alliance, if such a thing should happen. The Grip quotes the cost at 50 cents per head. The Times states that a man who pays taxes on \$500 would pay 25 cents extra by the county seat being removed to Alliance, and 50 cents on \$1,000. But it finishes up by saying: "There are not five farmers in the county who would pay an additional tax of 25 cents per year." The Times is eminently correct in its last statement, for it is very doubtful whether there are five farmers, giving him his own figures, that would pay 25 cents per year extra to have the county seat at Alliance. On the other hand, the very first statement is misleading. He says for a basis that the extra expense to the county of

maintaining the county records at Alliance is \$434, over and above the expense of maintaining them at Hemingford. The Times man readily admits that an extra expense will be entailed; that is one thing gained for Hemingford, but he does not use the necessary amount of figures. Here are the figures that represent the cost for the first year to the taxpayers, if it is moved:

Present court house.....	\$6,000
Court house grounds.....	1,500
Removal of records, according to Times' figures.....	250
Election expenses.....	1,500
Cost of maintaining county offices, over and above the expense now incurred....	434

Total.....\$9,684
On the basis of the Times' calculation that an extra cost of \$434 would mean an extra tax of 25 cents for every \$500 worth of assessed valuation, the true cost will be 22.3 times 25 cents, or \$5.57.5 extra for \$500, and \$11.15 for \$1,000. Look this up, taxpayers, figure for yourselves, and then vote. The figures given above are based on the removal of the county seat, in which case the present court house and grounds revert to the townsite company. Which is the best for the interests of the taxpayers? to have no extra cost for removal or maintaining county offices, by leaving the county seat at Hemingford, or paying an added burden of \$5.57.5 each on every \$500 assessed, by having it removed to Alliance.

A citizen of Alliance, who holds a responsible and lucrative position in that city, was approached a short time ago by one of "der gang," and asked to sign the removal petition. He refused, because he was an honest, conscientious, liberty-loving citizen, and told them so. He said he did not intend signing, as it meant increased taxation, and eventually the issuing of bonds, if Alliance won. Upon his refusing the request of this hired petition circulator said circulator reported to the chief of "der gang." "Der gang" then held an indignation meeting and unanimously resolved that this "upstart," who dared to stick up for his rights, should be ousted from his job if "der gang" had "pull" enough with the workingman's employer, or else be compelled to sign. The result was that the man was coerced into signing, as is every other man that holds a job under men who stand in with this gang. Alliance bankers have even intimidated to farmers, on whose homes they held mortgages, that if they (the farmers) were wise? and interested in their own welfare they would sign without delay. This practically meant that if these farmers, on whom the bankers had a "string," did not sign, the bankers would foreclose, and take their homes away from them. This is one of the "fair and honorable" ways in which these "honest" men are endeavoring to get the county seat.

A prominent farmer of Liberty precinct was in town Monday. He stated to a reporter that during the previous week he was approached by an Alliance petition circulator and asked to sign. He promptly refused. The petition circulator then tried to buy him, and asked him his price. The farmer told him that the only way he could be induced to sign was for the Alliance agitators to buy his farm, as it would be worthless, if Alliance won, and he wanted to dispose of it before he signed the petition. The deal has not yet been closed.

A Lie Nailed.

The Alliance Grip seems to get very patriotic over the invasion of English capital into Box Butte county, and especially Hemingford. [We presume they do this on account of our strained relations with England just at this time.] They say that they have made investigation, and find that our little city should be damned because it is owned by English capital. Now, we do not know who made the examination for the Grip, but the party that did so is either a malicious liar, or his mode of examination was very defective. The facts are that there never was, nor has been, a dollar of English money in our townsite, and farther, the company that owns some of the vacant property in Hemingford does not now, nor never did, own a building in Hemingford; that the improved property of this city is entirely owned by the residents of Hemingford and vicinity, and is, in a great measure, occupied by its owners. True, there is a corporation known as the Inter-State Townsite company, which own the major part of the vacant property of Hemingford, and it is also true that Alliance has a corporation known as the Lincoln Land company, which owns the major part of the vacant property, and some of the best improved business property of Alliance, and is as much of an English syndicate, if not more so, than is the Inter-State Townsite company.

Now, Mr. Grip, don't get gay. We are on your trail, and are prepared to call you down on all your wild statements, and if you will please have a meeting of your county seat committee, and call a meeting of the voters of Box Butte county, to meet at the county seat, and give us just one-third of the time, we will discuss these matters with you in a public way, and use proper names and plain figures, to show the voters what there is in the county seat removal question, and we are certain that you will take your petition home with half the names, which you now have on the same, scratched off, and we will give you the coming summer to replace them. Put up or shut up.

The new game law has many revisions, but this does not alter its severity. If anything the changes give the law a more emphatic expression. Here it is: Book agents may be killed from August 1 to October 1; spring poets from March to July; insurance agents from January to December 31, inclusive; umbrella borrowers from February 1 to May 1. Season open all the year round on scandal mongers, scheming politicians, petition circulators, and any of the "400" caught off their reservation.

What a parody on tax matters the Alliance papers have made in the county seat fight by expressions such as "The tax question is a bug-a-boo, scare-crow, etc." They have declared that the tax question did not cut any figure in the removal matter, and they are probably right from an outcry that the Alliance Grip gives in its issue of Friday: "The money in the treasury is now exhausted, and unless people will pay up their delinquent taxes at once, warrants issued henceforth will have to be held until more money is in the treasury. There is no reason why delinquent taxes should not be paid. People who owe them manage to raise money for everything else they want. Petitions for everything are subscribed to liberally, and yet the small and just matter of civil taxes is a burden that many try to shirk."

The Grip is eminently correct. These people, many of whom owe the county several years' taxes, have plenty of money to spend on personal adornment, they donate liberally to churches, schools and public entertainments, so the public in general will call them generous, open-hearted philanthropists and then to get even on these donations they avoid payment, as far as possible, of all honest debts, including taxes. The Grip says: "Just matters of civil taxes is a burden that many try to shirk." This is also correct, and they not only try, but succeed admirably well, as is shown by the tax records. They do not believe in paying taxes themselves, but are willing that the farmers should pay all necessary expenses. They are the people who want the county seat removed. The county in general makes a good showing, as compared with the great and good Alliance, whose citizens are not only far in arrears on taxes, but boldly publish the fact. What a grand assurance this gives to honest taxpayers that Alliance has the good of the county and its finances at heart, when her city is unable to cash city warrants until delinquent taxes are paid. This statement must be consoling to those who have paid their taxes, and wish to see the county well governed in a financial way, to know that the taxpayers in the grand city of Alliance are so far behind in taxes as to have distress warrants issued. Remember, taxpayers, that if a business man is failing when he is a hard proposition to intrust your business to him. Alliance is such a subject, and with all her boasted influence, might and force, she is a city of delinquents, who want the management of the business of this county, so as to get enormous rent from the county offices to bolster up her trembling position. Think of this, farmers, and when you look at the county records notice the Alliance delinquent list at the same time. If you do this Hemingford will continue to be the county seat of Box Butte county.

Let Harmony Prevail.

THE HERALD is ready and willing to give its columns to the write-up of Box Butte county, her resources, towns, and superior inducements to capitalists, and to advance her every interest in every way possible, and the voters and business men of Hemingford stand ready to do all in their power; to put their shoulders to the wheel, and work for Box Butte county first, last, and all the time, and we, as a people, look down on any movement that tends to separate the people and cause strife and discontent, and cast to the world anything that would prove disadvantageous to any community. But when it comes to the point of completely destroying one part of the county for the upbuilding of the other, then we lose all our patriotism, and especially when it comes to our own hearth place. We presume our Alliance brothers think it would only be patriotic for us to look wise and say nothing, and see our families turned out doors. No, "self-preservation is the first law of nature," and with all our patriotism we most emphatically denounce this single-handed cusseidness, and so long as THE HERALD remains a circulating medium, just so long will we proclaim our wrongs to the world. If our sister city desires peace, progress and happiness we extend our hand, but so long as they try to blot us or any other part of

the county out, and trample us under her feet, we will proclaim our rights, and we firmly believe that the time will never come when such tyranny can conquer.

Let Us Not Engage in Strife, for We Are Brethren.

EDITOR HERALD: As we are nearing the time when our Alliance friends hope to press upon us the question of county seat removal, I deem it a privilege to speak upon the subject. I regret to know that a money question will excite men to action ten times where a moral question will not move them once. Avariciousness has ever been the bone of human happiness, and the greed of a few has led to the present movement, which threatens to destroy the friendly relations that have existed in this county for a long time.

That the county seat, from a moral standpoint, should remain at Hemingford is admitted by every candid man. Situated as it is, near the center of the county, and the only part of the county that will ever support anything but a scattered population, means that it is but justice to our temporarily scattered population—because of poor crops—to retain the county seat at Hemingford.

That Alliance seeks to remove the county seat when so many are away from their homes, and unable to defend their rights, shows an avariciousness that characterized the man who for a few pieces of silver sold his Lord. He, as Alliance is doing now, discarded the moral life for a few shekels. Notwithstanding this, I am glad to learn by conversation that there are some Alliance citizens who will not vote for a removal of the county seat, on account of the injustice in the matter.

That two towns are better for the county than one is demonstrated by the merchants of Alliance, themselves. For instance, the writer, when in Alliance, was offered, and bought goods at a very large discount from the regular price, simply because he resided in Hemingford. With Hemingford competition destroyed the Alliance merchants would receive whatever price for their goods they saw fit to demand. While Alliance contends that the removal of the county seat will not materially increase taxation, yet every considerate man knows that it will entail an expense of from \$10,000 to \$25,000 within the next few years. We only need to look over the history of the past to know that "might does not make right." The fact that the Egyptians held the Hebrews in bondage so long was no proof that their power bestowed upon them the right of oppressors. Uriah lost his life because David had the power to command that he should be placed in a dangerous position in battle. The late war of the rebellion was brought about because the slaveholders' power exceeded that of the slaves, yet, I dare say, not an Alliance man will contend that slavery was right.

I am inclined to think, Mr. Editor, that the Golden rule, if adhered to, would bring more happiness into the lives of all than would the possession of a dozen county seats.

ALONZO SHERWOOD.

Don't think because a stove is round and the maker has called it Oak, of some sort, that it's the genuine Round Oak. It is not, as you'll find to your cost, if you buy. See the name on the leg. Then you'll be sure to get the genuine. Sold only by Ubrig.

MUST PAY TAXES

THE ALLIANCE HIGHLY OFFENDERS AND COUNTY SEAT AGITATORS CAN'T SHIRK ANY LONGER.

Yesterday the County Treasurer placed Twenty-seven distress warrants in the hands of Sheriff Hall with instructions to collect the taxes. On the list we notice the names of several "representative business men" including two of the representative merchants, one representative editor, and other prominent county seat agitators. The men who refuse to pay their own taxes, and now try to burden the honest taxpayers, must square themselves. The county treasurer is doing his duty. Let the good work go on.

Inconsistent.

The Grip last week struck the nail on the head when it said: "The worst fate that can befall a new county is to contain a majority of partisan voters who will vote for nothing but their party, etc." Now, if the taxpayers of Box Butte county do not believe this, simply put the county seat and all its habiliments at Alliance, off in one corner of the county, and see how completely Alliance will dictate the financial course of the county, and four years from now you will not need to refer to Dawes, Sheridan and Cheyenne counties, but can refer to your own dear county. Look at your last election, and see how many of your important officers were selected from Alliance, or its immediate vicinity. Mr. Grip, no doubt you can remember the old saying: "Consistency, thou art a jewel."

The Hemingford HERALD in its last issue makes the false and misleading statement that the delinquent taxes of the citizens of Alliance amount to the sum of \$6,000. This amount includes the taxes for the year 1895, which are not yet delinquent and do not commence to draw interest until the first of next February. Now Brother O'Keefe while you are giving so many "facts from the records" just publish a tabulated list of the delinquent taxes for each precinct and year and show us how the whole county stands on this matter. Will you do it or shall we give this information to the public? When Hemingford has to resort to the means referred to above it shows pretty conclusively the straits they are reduced to in this fight.—Alliance Times.

The statement made by THE HERALD was correct. The amount of delinquent taxes in the town of Alliance was just what we stated, and the 1895 tax WAS NOT included. After taking the time and pains to secure an accurate statement of the delinquent taxes in the town of Alliance, the Times man displays his ignorance by informing us that it is "false and misleading" and at the same time requesting us to publish a "tabulated list for each precinct and year." Bro. Ellis, what do you take us for? You are paid for publishing the delinquent tax list and we respectfully ask you "to give this information to the public." We do not think that you have ever looked this matter up at all and simply taken a certain agitator's word for it. Now then, Bro. Ellis, THE HERALD has not made one "false and misleading statement" but this is the second one THE Times has made. Don't you think you are injuring yourself more than anyone else?

Sheriff "Santa Claus" Hall has camped in Alliance and is filling up the socks of some of "the representative business men" with nice little Christmas presents in the shape of distress warrants. In the language of the Alliance editor: "this tax business is a scare-crow; don't be afraid of it."