

Custer Co. Republican

Published every Thursday at the County Seat.

D. M. AMBERLY, Editor

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REPUBLICAN CITY TICKET.

For Mayor..... ED ROYSE
For Clerk..... W W COWLES
For Treasurer..... S H HOYT
For City Engineer..... F MCCLURE
For Police Judge..... EMIL G'SCHWIND
FOR COUNCILMEN:

First Ward..... W J WOODS
Second Ward..... ALPHA MORGAN
Third Ward..... LA RENEAU

REPUBLICAN CITY PLATFORM.

RESOLVED—That we congratulate the present city government upon its economical administration of the affairs of the city and commend the principle adopted by the present administration of making the revenues for each year pay the running expenses of said city for the year.

2nd, That we favor economy whenever it may be practiced in city affairs and recommend that the present system be continued.

3rd, Resolved, That we here by pledge the nominees of this convention to abide by the vote cast in the city upon the question of license.

BROKEN BOW, NEB., March 10, 1900.

The republican county convention of Custer county is hereby called to convene at the north side Opera House, Broken Bow, Neb., at ten o'clock a. m., Saturday, April 21, 1900, for the purpose of placing in nomination one county attorney and to elect 18 delegates to the state convention to be held at Lincoln, Neb., May 2, 1900, at 2 p. m., and 18 delegates to the congressional at Kearney, Neb., April 25, 1900. Also delegates to the senatorial and representative conventions, time, place and representation not yet fixed, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the convention. Basis of representation, one delegate at large for each township and one for every ten votes or major fraction thereof cast for Hon. M. B. Reese for Supreme Judge at last general election. The several townships are entitled to representation as follows:

Algernon	9	Hayes	2	Kilfoll	10
Anselby	12	Arnold	7	Berwyn	6
Broken Bow	28	Cliff	5	Custer	9
Delight	9	Kilm	3	Douglas Grove	8
Elk Creek	8	Grant	6	Garfield	8
Lillian	7	Loup	9	Myrtle	5
Sargent	5	Triumph	4	Victoria	7
Wood River	10	West Union	6	Westerville	11
Wayne	6	Total		199	

It is recommended that township primaries be held Saturday, April 14th, that no proxies be admitted and that the delegates present cast the full vote of their township delegations. By order of Committee.

E. ROYSE, Chairman,
E. G'SCHWIND, Sec.

THURSDAY, MARCH, 22, 1900.

In President McKinley's offer to England of the "good officers" of Uncle Sam in settling the difference between England and the Boers. It deprives the demo-pops of another opportunity to howl.

At the demo-pop state convention in Lincoln Monday, they employed the police force to prevent Clem Deaver and his middle of the road associates from entering the convention hall. It is said Bryan directed the management of the convention from behind the screens.

The refusal of the demo-pops to let the middle of the road delegation into the convention hall at Lincoln Monday resulted in about two hundred of the delegates holding an independent convention, at which they elected delegates to populist conventions to be held at Cincinnati. They elected a state central committee and will nominate a state ticket.

If the claims of Bryan and his followers were true in 1896 that the adoption of the gold standard would make money worth 200 cents on the dollar, farmers who are now getting \$4.25 for their hogs and cattle and 35 cents for their corn are in fact getting twice that amount as we are still under the gold standard.

Mr. Sheldon has concluded his week of journalism in which he claimed to be running the Topeka Capital as Christ would run it. Mr. Sheldon took in \$67,000 from the enterprise, but we have not yet heard of him distributing it among the poor or dividing it equally with the mechanics and writers who assisted in the work. When Christ was here he did not engage in enterprises to benefit himself but for the benefit of others. In this case it seems that Mr. Sheldon has been the only one to realize a profit.

Smoking Stunts Boys.
Whatever difference of opinion

there may be upon the advisability of smoking for men, there is none as to its pernicious effect upon boys. It effects the action of the heart and reduces the capacity of the lungs. Young men who are being trained for athletics are not permitted to smoke by their trainers because, as they say, "it is bad for the wind." The argument that will appeal most forcibly to the boy is that smoking will stunt his growth. It has been proved that youthful smokers are shorter and weigh less than their comrades who do not smoke. Cigarettes are particularly injurious. Nicotine, the active principle of tobacco, is said by chemists to be, next to prussic acid, the most rapidly fatal poison known. The tender tissues of a growing boy cannot absorb even a very small quantity of it without most injurious results.—Ladies' Home Journal.

In spite of the war in the Philippines the national income is exceeding the coming face to face with another old time problem—viz what to do with the surplus. We have had that problem to meet before, when the country has been under a Protective Tariff regime. In fact, that was the question most frequently asked during the Presidential campaign of 1888. Max O'Rell, then, as now, on a visit to this country, exclaimed apropos of this national problem: "Happy the country whose only difficulty is in knowing what to do with its surplus." He would not have had any occasion to envy us a few years later, say in 1893 or 1894. Cleveland, with his Free-Trade policy, soon relieved us of any difficulty in knowing what to do with the surplus. In fact, he very soon relieved us of any surplus at all and furnished us with a deficit.

But with a banishment of Free-Trade the deficit disappeared and our national income has once more begun to exceed the national outgo, and it looks as though the old problem might come back. There are no signs, however, that the people of the country are doing any worrying over the protest. They appear rather to agree with Max O'Rell, that the country whose chief difficulty is found in handling its surplus cash is not in a very bad way. The people of the country know what it is these days to have surplus in their own pockets, and they find it very agreeable.—AMERICAN ECONOMIST.

ASSESSMENTS NOT EQUITABLE.

The manner of assessing property in Custer county as practiced by the assessors each year probably does not differ greatly from the custom of assessors of other counties. But anyone who will take the time to investigate the practice established in this county will find the cause of general complaint by property owners of their assessments. Instead of complying with the law and assessing property at its cash value they fix a specific value on various articles. To illustrate, they classify the land into township under the head of 1st, 2nd, 3d, 4th and 5th classes. Then they place a value upon the land in the several classes that in their opinion corresponds with the comparative value. To illustrate, they fix the valuation of farm land in Broken Bow township at from \$2 to \$18 per acre. In Anselby township from \$1 to \$14. Cliff from \$1 to \$7.50. Wayne from \$1 to \$7.00. Arnold from 75 cents to 4 dollars. Stallions and jacks from 50 to 400 dollars. These values give the minimum and maximum value and then they passed a resolution instructing to list all property at one-fourth value. In other words at one fourth of the specific value placed upon the property and not the real value. The practice is unjust, first, because it does not provide for an equitable assessment. Land cannot be classified by township in Custer county and equal justice done to all. Every township has land that admits of comparison as good, better, best. For instance, there may be land in Victoria township worth as much as any land in the county, yet under the classification it cannot be valued for more than seven dollars and fifty cents per acre and listed for taxable purposes for more than \$1.85 cents. The same class of land in Anselby or Algernon township would be valued at \$14 per acre and listed at \$3.50 per acre. Then take jacks and stallions as another illustration. The value is placed at \$50 to \$400. The value is far from being in proportion to the price put upon cattle. Just recently a citizen of Broken Bow imported a stallion that weighed 1800, which cost \$1.00 per pound. This horse the assessor can only assess at \$400 and list for \$100 for taxes. The man who invested his sixteen hundred dollars in 3 year old steers at

\$40 per head would have them assessed at \$40 per head and listed at \$10 each or \$400. On his \$1000 investment he would pay taxes on \$400 while the man who invested in a sixteen hundred dollars horse would pay taxes on but one hundred dollars. The same practice is adopted for all classes of property. The custom of fixing upon a specific value for property and then listing it at one-fourth that value is not only unjust but unlawful demoralizing in effect and perjury. The law which the assessor takes his oath to obey, requires that property shall be assessed at its actual cash value. To list at one fourth or one-fifth its cash value is an evasion for which there is no legitimate excuse. The plea that as other counties do the same is not sufficient grounds for anyone else doing it, neither is the plea that to assess at cash value would raise our taxes. The state and county board of equalization is constituted for the express purpose of equalizing the taxes and should they neglect or fail to do so we have a remedy. They can be mandamed and compelled to do their duty. But we do not apprehend that there would be any cause for complaint from that source. It is after the assessors returns are in that the board of equalization makes the levy. The levy is made to correspond with the revenue required for state and county expense. If the valuation of the county was found to be four million, instead of two million the number of mills levied would be just half the number required had the valuation been put at two millions. The state board of equalization is created for the purpose of equalizing the taxes for state purpose between counties. If Custer county assessed her property at its cash value and Douglas county hers for one-tenth its value the correct proportion would be one mill against Custer county to ten mills against Douglas. Hence we would not have to pay any more than our share of the state tax. The effect morally is deplorable. Not only do assessors perjure themselves but it educates the general public to regard an oath lightly and cannot help to have a very demoralizing effect upon the body politics. We regard the custom of sufficient magnitude to demand the attention of the attorney general and the county attorneys of the state. If no other measure can put a stop to the open violation of the law they should not stop short of prosecuting every violator to the full extent of the law. As the state board follows the same practice with property under their control they should also be dealt with accordingly. We are informed that in no instance they assess railroad or other property under their supervision for more than one-fourth its value.

Washington Letter.

(Special Correspondence.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17, 1900.
In the first seven months of this fiscal year the importations of foreign wool were nearly two and one quarter million dollars less than in the corresponding months of that commodity. Protection seems to be offering American wool-growers a good opportunity to supply the American manufactures with the raw material needed.

February's returns of exports and imports, as printed by the Treasury Department, show an increase of \$8,500,000 in imports and of \$20,000,000 in exports, as compared with February, 1898. Thus our foreign trade still continues to expand under a protective tariff. That the "tariff tax" is not so much of a "burden" as the Democrats would have the people believe, is evident from the fact that, out of \$86,774,000 of imports, no less than \$31,000,000 were admitted free of duty.

The following little table is about all that is necessary to shut up those few gentry who still insist that silver is a live issue. In view of the 1896 Democrats statements that our money circulation could not increase without the adoption of free silver, these figures are interesting and illustrative of how very wrong a Democratic can be.

Per capita in the United States.				
1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	
\$21.10	\$22.49	\$24.71	25.60	

Bradstreet's, that trade journal so liberally quoted by Democrats in 1896, is not now endorsed by them as "good campaign reading." In 1896 the condition of the country obliged such journals to print accounts of failures, strikes, business depression, reduction of wages and the like, all of which Silverites loudly attributed to the gold standard. But the conditions have served and now Bradstreet's and other trade journals reflect the great prosperity in the country by telling of business activity, factories working overtime and yet turning

away orders, increases wages, etc., all of which transition has occurred under the same gold standard which, until "expansion" appeared upon the political horizon, Mr. Bryan said was the very worst thing in the world, and under which the United States could never be prosperous.

It will be remembered that in 1896 a party of silver Republican patriots, among whom was Senator Pettigrew, made a tour of Japan for the purpose of finding out why that country had abandoned the silver standard for the gold, and also to learn how the gold standard was working. They returned in safety, but for some reason their report was never heard from. The mystery is now solved. The Japanese Minister of Finance has just issued a full official report showing that the gold standard has been of great advantage to all classes in Japan, clearly accounting for the vast improvement over the conditions found under free silver. This may explain why the members of the self-appointed Pettigrew commission suddenly dropped the Japanese gold-standard question like a hot cake and turned their attention to other lines of opposition.

The pledge of the republican party with reference to money has been fulfilled. The new currency law breaks the "endless chain," and at the same time established a sufficient guaranty fund in the Treasury to maintain at a gold value every dollar of currency in circulation in the United States, what ever its form may be. It makes the reserve fund for redemption of paper money \$150,000,000, instead of \$100,000,000, and authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to increase the reserve whenever it goes below \$100,000,000, by exchanging the paper currency thus redeemed for gold in the general fund, or by sale of bonds if necessary to keep the reserve up to its proper figure. The fact that the notes redeemed cannot be used again to meet deficiencies in the current revenues and only by exchange for gold, obviates the possibility of pumping the gold out of the Treasury by the "endless chain," progress which proved so disastrous a few years ago, while the fact that the law specifically names the dollar of "25.8 grains gold nine-tenths fine," as the unit of value, puts an end to any possible question as to the value and acceptability of American money in any part of the world, and of the relation of any one of our dollars to any other dollar. F.A.H.

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