

Custer Co. Republican

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THURSDAY, JAN 10, 1901.

To put money in the county treasury for a pop board to handle is very similar to pouring sand into a rat hole.

P. D. Armour, the millionaire packer of Chicago, died Sunday afternoon. He had been failing in health for two years. His estate is estimated to be worth from \$10,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

Had F. H. Young waited until the expiration of the pop county board before investing in tax certificates, the county would have a surplus to its credit now, instead of a deficit.

Gov. Dietrich's inaugural address is an able production, and contains nothing but straightforward business propositions. If he continues on in the policy he has started, he will well earn the title of Nebraska's business governor.

The people of this vicinity, who retired before 11 o'clock Tuesday night, were surprised yesterday morning to find the ground covered with 2 1/2 inches of snow. As the weather was mild and no wind it worked no special hardships on any one, except those who were using the range to feed their stock. But as moisture at all seasons is welcome here, the extra feed required on the account of it will doubtless be borne with cheerfulness.

The reception of the governor and state officers elect at Lincoln last Thursday night in the senate chamber was a grand affair. Two hours and thirty-five minutes was given the crowd to extend congratulations, but the time was not sufficient to give all an opportunity who sought admission. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and his two daughters were among the guests of honor. We understand that the reception at the inaugural ball, which was held at the auditorium later in the evening, was a swell affair.

Pop Board Leaves a Shortage

Our great financiers (?) the pop officials, who the pop papers have been praising so highly for their fine financing and economy, have not only sent out their sleuth hounds and collected everything in sight in the way of back taxes, and spent the whole amount, but they leave a debt of \$20,000 for the republican board to meet. From their great claims, the REPUBLICAN conceded that the board had in ten years with the delinquent taxes of \$40,000, which was to the credit of the county when the republican board was retired, had been able to clear up the indebtedness incurred, in the early history of the county before there was any land tax or little personal property to assess, and had as they claimed put the county on a cash basis. But we find upon a little investigation, facts do not warrant the claim. Instead of the debt being liquidated there is a shortage, and the bills allowed at the December meeting, not only consumed the entire amount available of the 1900 levy and transferred funds, but leaves a shortage of \$2,500. This amount added to the \$18,000 borrowed from the sinking fund, starts the new century in with a debt of \$20,500. When it is remembered that as a result of the success of the republican party in the county last fall, one of our citizens, F. H. Young paid into the county treasury, but a few weeks ago, \$30,000 for tax sale certificates, it does not make a very flattering showing for the pop administration. Had it not been for Young's deal the shortage would have been much more serious. Then to cap the climax, without stopping to see where they were at, they went wild at the last board meeting on receipt of Young's \$30,000 and voted to cut the general levy in two. This act was supported by all five of the populist members, and opposed by Messrs.

Lind and Brechbuhl, the only two republican members of the board. These men insisted that the county finances were not in shape to warrant so radical a reduction. But we are informed that County Attorney Kirkpatrick and County Clerk Osbourn, the "figurers" for the board, asserted they had gone over the books and the reduction could safely be made, and it would be a great political stroke for the pop party. They knew the republican board intended to cut the levy this year, if the conditions would warrant it, and in order to make a record as economists, the reduction was made ahead of time, and to the discredit of their party as well as to the county. Any school boy with the information at their command, could have easily seen the result, and we are only surprised that there were not at least one or two populists on the board that had gumption enough to have figured out just what resources were available and refused to be controlled by the political ring.

The following figures we obtained from the county clerk yesterday, which any member of the board might have obtained, and acted intelligently, thus saving the credit of the county. The total valuation of the county, as returned by the tax list, is \$2,385,927. The general fund levy, out to four mills, would give a general fund of \$9,553.70. Of this fund the law limits drawing warrants to 85 per cent. This would allow the issuing of warrants to the amount of \$8,121.54 only. From the delinquent taxes collected and amount paid for tax certificates by F. H. Young there was in the general fund \$13,606, which was transferred to the account of 1900. This gave a total of \$23,727.45, as resources, after issuing warrants to the full limit, the claims allowed last session for which amounts could not be issued amounts to \$2,500. As \$18,000 has been borrowed out of the sinking fund to pay the warrants issued, it devolves upon the republican board to see that the money is collected to repay the \$18,000, besides the \$2,500 of claims. Doubtless there will be a number of legitimate claims yet filed against last year's account, which will have to be provided for. The situation is anything but flattering for the new board, and very much different from what has been claimed by the fusion press and the leading officials of the pop party.

Legislative Apportionment.

One of the promises made in the platform adopted by the Nebraska republicans at their state convention provides for a reapportionment legislative and congressional districts that will accord fair and equal representation to the people in every section of the state.

Reapportionment measures will be looked upon as among the more important legislation demanding the attention of our lawmakers this winter, and the history of the present apportionment offers the most forcible argument in favor of a careful and well-digested measure.

The Nebraska constitution established the first legislative apportionment by virtue of its own provisions and the districts were to be rearranged by legislative enactment in 1881 and every five years thereafter in accordance with the population disclosed by state and federal census in the even and odd decades. Nebraska's only state census was taken in 1885 and was followed by a redistricting of the state in 1887. In 1881 the populists and democrats had control of the legislature and throttled the legislative apportionment, although the congressional reapportionment bill became a law. The chief reason for the failure of the redistricting in 1891 was found in the preponderant growth of the larger cities of the state and the corresponding reduction which would have been entailed upon certain rural counties. The legislature of 1893, which was also controlled by the fusion parties, and that of 1895, which was republican, was powerless to apply the remedy because the constitution expressly forbids the redistricting of the state by any legislature except that which convenes immediately after

the census period. The state census which should have been taken in 1895 was omitted for the sake of economy, coming as it did on the heels of disastrous crop failures, calling upon the state treasury for relief for the drouth sufferers.

Thus for fourteen years Nebraska has been subject to the apportionment of 1887, which is notoriously unjust to many parts of the state.

Under the constitution, the present legislature is the only body empowered to pass an apportionment bill in conformity with the recent census. This duty must not be evaded nor shirked nor should it be performed with purely partisan ends in view.

For most of the counties the districting of legislative representation is purely a question of arithmetic, the only opportunity for division being in the construction of the districts comprising two or more counties. By setting to work at this task in a proper spirit it can be accomplished without any factious opposition.—Omaha Bee.

STATE CAPITAL GOSSIP.

Special Correspondence.

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 7, 1901.

The legislature met on schedule time last week, and within twenty-four hours everything was moving like clock-work. The organization was characterized by strict business methods.

The number of applications for jobs under the new administration rather pointed to a grand rush for legislative places, but it turned out that there were fewer applicants on hand than ever before, and there was less than usual difficulty in settling the employe question.

If the senatorial fight is settled as easily and amicably as was the speakership contest, the republicans of the state will have reason for congratulation. It is probable that this will be done, and that no mistake will be made. The republican members form a strong body of men, and there is a general disposition to be satisfied with any two square-toed republicans who may be selected, and a further disposition toward an early caucus, that the contest may be settled so as not to interfere with the other business of the session.

The inaugural reception and ball together made one of the most notable society events in the history of the state. At the reception there was such a large crowd that many were unable to gain admission to the building, while the ball was a success in every way. One war-horse who had fought many society battles, said that there were more full dress suits and spike-tailed coats in evidence than were ever before seen in the city, if not in the state. He said the number of people from other towns here to attend the event, was an added proof of the great prosperity now prevailing.

One incident of the reception of General Lee, at Lincoln is worthy of special mention. An ex-army officer, who is also a leading fusionist, declined to attend the reception because "he had fought against Lee in the civil war, and saw no reason to change his mind now." Inasmuch as Lee served in the Spanish-American war as a superior officer to Colonel Vitquain, and is now holding an honorable commission under the U. S. government, the objection excited much unfavorable comment. The fact that Vitquain is a close friend of Mr. Bryan possibly gives the matter added interest.

So far as can be noticed at the present time, there will not be much "hold-up" legislation attempted during this session. This was indicated by the fact that the demand for places on certain committees was not as great as usual. The public well knows that a "hold-up" bill is one introduced by some member who has a scheme, and who receives money from some corporation as pay for permitting the bill to be killed. Such schemes have been common in past sessions, and the scramble to get on insurance, railroad or other corporation committees, usually meant a hint toward "hold-up" legislation. The indication is lacking in the present session. ADAM GRANGER.

Hon. F. M. Currie's Supporters Sanguine

Favorable Comments General, and His Chances Improving.

As the date for voting upon the two United States senators draws near, the situation grows more complicated. The candidates who were regarded in the lead at the convening of the legislature, seem to be no surer of success than others less prominent. Senator Currie, who was regarded as a dark horse at first is now recognized as one of the leading candidates, and the possibilities are that he will make as good a showing as any one on the first ballot, unless the matter is settled in caucus before the question comes to a vote. There is no question but that Senator Currie is today the personal choice of a majority of the legislature. But as a number are compromised by pre-election pledges, they will not for a time be able to vote their preferences. The plan suggested by the REPUBLICAN of having one from the west to represent the stock growing and farming interests, is generally accepted by the members of the legislature as the correct theory. Senator Currie is very sanguine and feels quite confident that he will be elected.

The papers of the Sixth district are standing up for western Nebraska, and Senator Currie loyally, as is shown by the following:

Bixby, in State Journal.

Hon. F. M. Currie is developing considerable strength as a senatorial candidate. If the people of Nebraska desire to be represented in the senate by a practical farmer who has more brains and gumption than a Philadelphia lawyer they could not find a better man than Currie anywhere.

Sargent New Era (pop).

The New Era would rather see F. M. Currie elected to the United States senate than any other republican we know of. But we don't believe for a minute that the republican party will have sense enough to send him there. Nothing goes but a corporation attorney, in Nebraska.

Grand Island Daily Independent.

State Senator F. M. Currie of Custer county is mentioned in connection with one of the United States senatorships. He was the leading light in the state senate two years ago, is very highly educated, and those in a position to know nearly all of the candidates personally state that Currie might by no means be weak timber notwithstanding the fact that he is new in the political arena.

Kearney Hub.

AN EAST AND WEST DIVISION.

There is talk of an east and west Nebraska senatorial combination now in lieu of the long-standing north and south Platte arrangement. The new combination having been effected, it is supposed that Senator Currie of Custer county will hold down the west end and the strongest candidate in propinquity of the Missouri river the east end. There is nothing that matter with the proposed combination if it can be made to work. Indeed, there will not be found to be anything the matter with any combination that wins out.

Loup City Northwestern.

The senatorial contest at Lincoln will soon be in full blast, and we can see no good reason why the northern part of the state should not be considered as the plums are passing. We have three available candidates, either of whom are well entitled to recognition, Hon. A. E. Cady of St. Paul, M. P. Kin-kaid of O'Neil, and Senator Currie of Sargent. They are all splendid men whom to know is to trust, and neither has ever been connected with questionable deals. The people of this part of the state should demand a place on the senatorial delegation for one of them.

St. Paul Republican.

WOULD REFLECT CREDIT.

The name of F. M. Currie, of Custer county, is being frequently mentioned in connection with one of the senatorships, these days. The Republican does not enjoy an acquaintance with Mr. Currie, but

it knows him well by reputation, and that reputation is a rattling good one. As a matter of right and justice the western portion of the state should be permitted to furnish one of the senators, in which case there is an abundance of excellent timber. Cady, Kinkaid, Currie or any one of half a dozen others would reflect credit upon Nebraska without making trouble for the party, which is more than can be said for certain eastern candidates.

Western Nebraska Observer, Kimball.

RANKS HIGH IN CHARACTER AND ABILITY.

The writer has no pet candidates for the United States senate, but wants to see two good, clean, able men elected, who will work for the best interests of the entire state. Geo. Meiklejohn, D. E. Thompson, Edward Rosewater, Ex governor Crouse and F. M. Currie are considered the leading candidates, and are all acceptable to the Observer. Senator Currie lives in the Sixth congressional district, and for that reason is entitled to some consideration from the people in this part of the state. He is well qualified for the position as are the other candidates and ranks high in character and ability.

Taylor Clarion.

Our choice for U. S. Senator, Hon. F. M. Currie. And why not? He has no strings tied to him, and has never been mixed up in any dirty political deals. In the legislature he was the leading spirit and his opinion was sought by both parties. As the Lincoln Journal says, "When he first went to the legislature he was the least known of any man there, but when the legislature adjourned he was the best known." There will be a squabble for that office this winter, and we are not in favor of those candidates who have been working the scheme for months, yes, years. Mr. Currie will tell you he is not a candidate for that office. Perhaps not, but he has been known to change his mind, when convinced his services are needed by the country.

Lincoln Evening News.

CURRIE LOOMING UP.

Senator F. M. Currie's candidacy for the senatorship has developed into boom of such proportions that he is no longer in the dark horse list. The commission issued by the governor extends until January, 1902. The power of the governor to appoint employes for a term beyond his own administration has been questioned, but in his defense it is urged that no appointment can be made for less than two years.

To California in a Tourist Sleeper.

In no other way can you go to California so quickly, so comfortable, and yet so economical, as in a tourist sleeping car.

The tourist cars used for the Burlington Overland Excursions are models of comfort and convenience, high back seats and double windows. They are lighted by gas. The heating arrangement are admirable and the bed furnishings are clean and of good quality.

The Burlington Excursions leave Omaha every Tuesday and Thursday and go through to San Francisco and Los Angeles without changes or delays of any kind. You can join them at Lincoln, Hastings, Oxford, or any other station at which the train stops. The route is through Denver and Salt Lake City, past the finest scenery visible from car windows anywhere on the globe.

An experienced excursion manager is in charge of each excursion party and a uniformed porter accompanies each car. Folder giving full information mailed on request. Beautiful illustrated 72 page book about California sent on receipt of six cents in stamps. J. FRANCIS, General Passenger Agent, Omaha, Neb., Nov. 9.

Dr. J. M. McLeod

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most highly respected by all men who know him. His character is as pure and spotless as the Alpine snow.

Burwell Tribune.

The Tribune can see no good reason why the state should be divided into senatorial districts by the Platte river. The material interests of the state would be better served by the election of a senator from the eastern and one from the western part of the state. The stock interests of the western part of the state are as important as the agricultural interests of eastern Nebraska, and in many respects these interests are not identical. For these and the many other good reasons it seem to us that the time-honored custom of electing senators from the north and south Platte sections should be abolished, and a square deal given the western part of the state.

IDEAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WEST.

Without doubt the legislature will act on the demand, made in another column of the Tribune, for a "redistricting" of the state in the matter of selecting U. S. senators, and give the grazing district representation. Confident that this will be the case the Tribune as the official organ of the best stock country under the sun, makes haste to point out to the legislature the very man for the place—the representative man of the best stock country on earth, in ability, integrity, republicanism, and all the qualifications necessary to a republican United States senator the peer of any other Nebraskan, a practical stock man, intelligent enough, big enough, broad enough and honest enough to represent every interest of the state of Nebraska in the senate of the nation—Frank M. Currie, of Sargent. Mr. Currie is particularly well fitted for this position. He has taught school, conducted a farm managed a bank, practiced law, conducted a country newspaper, been a candidate for office, making a success of every undertaking, and is now engaged in stock raising. He is an ideal representative of western interests and the "common people," and the Tribune would urge his election.

Successor to Lou May.

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 26.—Governor Poynter has appointed John H. Huff, editor of the Anzeiger of Norfolk, for member of the State Fish commission, to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of W. L. May, of Omaha. The commission issued by the governor extends until January, 1902. The power of the governor to appoint employes for a term beyond his own administration has been questioned, but in his defense it is urged that no appointment can be made for less than two years.

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