

Custer Co. Republican

Published every Thursday at the County Seat.

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Office in Custer Block, Fourth Ave. Entered at the postoffice at Broken Bow, Neb., as second-class matter for transmission through the U. S. Mails.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: One Year, in advance, \$1.00

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1901.

While it must be conceded by all that the re-election of William McKinley has brought an end to the rebellion in the Philippines, there is another fact as potent to be remembered, and that is that those who opposed the prosecution of the war against the insurgents did not contribute to bringing about the happy termination of the rebellion by voting for McKinley. They did not vote as they preached.

The North River Bridge Co., of Pennsylvania, have arranged to build a bridge from Hoboken to Honnetters. The various railroads whose business it will accommodate are back of the scheme. It is estimated that it will take four years to complete the bridge, and that it will cost \$80,000,000. There will be sixteen tracks for railroad trains and the strength of the structure will be sufficient for trains to run at full speed. Above them will be trolley tracks, drive ways, bicycle paths and foot ways. The bridge will be the largest in the world.

The Republican office acknowledges the receipt of a copy of Remington's Newspaper Directory for 1901. This is a very valuable hand book as it is full of information, arranged for ready reference, concisely compiled, handsomely and substantially bound, and issued by Edward P. Remington's Newspaper Agency, Pittsburg, Pa. The directory contains full and complete list of all newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and Canada, with their days of issue, politics and circulation, and the population of each town, county and state where a newspaper is published, which makes it of special value to each advertiser.

At Evanston, Wyoming, the U. P. Railroad in sinking a well for water has discovered an oil field. The shaft was sunk 1,200 feet but no water was found. At the depth of 423 feet was struck a heavy flow of lubricating oil. At the depth of 525 feet a large vein of petroleum was struck 95 per cent. pure. At 1,120 feet another vein of oil was struck, which is said to be the richest natural oil ever discovered in this country. The B. & M. Railroad survey of the extension of its Guernsey line to Salt Lake, passes over the same section of country and within five miles of the U. P. well. The land is all owned by the government, and is being filed on very rapidly in mineral tracks of 20 acres.

A grand jury is a creature of law that seldom has an existence in fact in Nebraska since the law has been amended so as to provide for the calling of a grand jury only on the application of the county attorney. But last week a grand jury was impaneled in Hall county for the purpose of finding an indictment against one Jack Smithwick, who was accused of stealing thirteen hogs valued at \$160, from County Superintendent Hays last March. While in session they not only filed complaint against Smithwick, but they condemned the court house, county jail and demanded that fire escapes be built to both the colleges, St. Francis Hospital and several other public buildings of the city. The man Smithwick when sent after by the sheriff had fled.

"In a few days, or just as soon as they can forget that \$600,000,000 was lost in Wall street in one day under a republican president, the g. o. p. organs will again take up their favorite pastime of talking about the great financial losses sustained under a democratic president"—World-Herald.

The above shows how hard up the democratic press is for an argument against the republican administration. The financial panic experienced under a democratic ad-

ministration from '93 to '97 was very different from the gambling in stocks in New York last week. The two transactions will not permit of comparison from a national or political standpoint even should the loss in the latter equal the amount of the former. The financial loss under democratic reign from '93 to '97 was universal so far as the business of the United States were concerned. No individual escaped its depressing influence. Rich and poor, from the highest to the lowest, suffered to a greater or less degree from the panic brought on under a democratic administration. Could the loss have been estimated in dollars and cents that was sustained by individuals, \$600,000,000 would be small in comparison. The depreciation in value of real estate alone, as a result of the panic of that lamentable period far exceeded the amount the gamblers lost on Wall street last week. Then there is the stocks, bonds, manufactures, banks, merchants, and every other industry that either went to the wall or suffered greatly as a result of the inauguration of the free trade administration, which in the aggregate amounted to billions instead of millions. Another difference between them which proves that the two losses cannot admit of honest comparison is the cause as well as the effect. The financial panic which prevailed from '93 to '97 was the direct result of the government policy of free trade, advocated by the democratic party and enacted into law as soon as the party came into power. Purely political. The effect upon the business interests of the country was universal. Every business as well as every individual suffered from it. The wild transactions in Wall street last week, in which it is claimed the speculators lost \$600,000,000 was not of a political nature nor was the republican administration in any sense responsible for it, except for the prosperous times which provided men ample means with which to gamble in large sums of money. The dealings were voluntary on the part of the individuals from a speculative standpoint. They bought and sold on imaginative values and when the day of reckoning came they had no stock to deliver and had to put up their cash and got nothing in return. The individual speculators in the deal were the sole sufferers. The railroad bonds which sold on the board of trade in the main remained the property of their original owners and the wild prices bid by the bulls was no inducement to Jim Hill & Co. to part with their stocks. Thus the control of the Great Northern and the Burlington roads were neither enhanced or decreased in value and no one suffered loss except those who bought futures and failed to sell in time to realize a profit. No panic resulted in the financial world. No business was disturbed and only those who bought and sold what they could not deliver were effected. No law of the land had any effect upon the transactions and the republican party is in no sense responsible for the results.

The Spirit of Arbor Day. Nebraska has the honor of starting Arbor Day. In the year 1874 the Nebraska state board of agriculture recommended that a day be set apart each year for tree planting. The institution has spread until now the observance is almost universal in the United States. In some cases the day is fixed by law and in others by annual appointment. The march of Arbor Day over the country begins in December in Georgia and ends to-day in Rhode Island. The original purpose of the holiday was the planting of new trees. The woodland area of the United States is thirty-six and one-half per cent. of the total land area, but the axe and fire are destructive. The wisdom and necessity of guarding the trees are evident, for a treeless country soon becomes desert. The idea of Arbor Day quickly broadened into the setting out of shrubs, vines and flowers, the preservation and care of trees and forests, better oversight of school grounds, parks and

cemeteries, which belong for the most part to the public. Private enterprise has also caught the spirit of the day. In all these lines the holiday has borne fruit and is big with future promise. As might be expected, the observance of the day first touched merely the external aspects of the community. Attention has thus been drawn to the condition of public areas such as schools and park spaces, roadsides, local cemeteries and semi-public grounds under church or other ownership. The day has generally led to putting these properties in order at least once a year and frequently to their better permanent care. The community eye, so to speak, has been opened wider to see what was unseen before in fine natural features or opportunities for local improvement or adornment. Splendid single trees, stretches of road side trees, the village green, the brook and stream, the bridges and other elements of the town have attracted public notice. An appreciation of the value of these things has steadily grown. As a plain New Hampshire farmer, living daily among mountains, lakes and forest roads, said: "I did not see these before, but now I mind them."—Providence Journal, Rhode Island.

Commander John Reese Retires. At the concluding session of the G. A. R. encampment the first of the week John Reese of this city, who has so efficiently filled the position of Commander of the Department of Nebraska's Grand Army of the Republic surrendered the office to his successor R. S. Wilcox of Omaha. Commander Reese has handled the finances of the organization in a highly satisfactory way as is shown by the report of the treasurer. When he assumed the duties of the office a year ago, the department treasury had only six hundred dollars. He leaves it with nearly one thousand dollars, which is accounted for by the statement that Commander Reese paid a great deal of his own expenses. In his annual address Mr. Reese discussed the pension system at length, complimenting the government on the fact that "No other nation had so righteously remembered the defenders of its flag in the matter of pensions as has the United States." He noticed the complaint so frequently made by the old soldier because of the different construction put on the pension laws by different commissioners of pensions and the injustice so frequently done. He called attention to the work of the committee appointed at the National Encampment a year ago at Chicago, which through congress had secured an amendment to the law so as to remove the ambiguity of the law, so that an interpretation unfavorable to the soldier cannot well be placed upon it. He further stated that: "The limitation of the income allowed widows has been raised from ninety-six dollars to two hundred fifty dollars per year, and an act was passed restoring pensions to widows of soldiers who had lost their pensions by re-marrying and who have again become widows. "The amendment to the pension law also provides that each infirmity alleged by an applicant shall be separately rated and the sum total shall form the basis for the pension. "A bill was introduced in the late congress through the efforts of this committee whereby, should it become a law, a court of appeals will be created to which the appeal will lie from an adverse ruling by the commissioner upon the claim of any applicant for a pension. "The applicant, under its provisions, will also possess the right to be represented by counsel, and in all respects have the same privileges allowed to parties in the courts of justice, and I am convinced that a law of this character will remove even the appearance of favoritism as the applicants claim will be passed upon by a court whose integrity cannot be questioned. "The impression which exists in the minds of many of the comrades, that the commissioner uses the power of his position to obstruct the laws by pretexts real or imaginary, will be removed, and the veteran's claim will be speedily determined by an unprejudiced tribunal. "An act generally known as 'the

vetran's preference bill,' was introduced in the Fifty-sixth congress and was urged by the committee with all imaginable perseverance and ability. It was largely due to the interest in this measure shown by our chief executive that it was brought before the lower branch of our congress and although the vote of that body was unfavorable to the bill, it is gratifying to us to know that it had the hearty sanction and earnest approval of our Comrade William McKinley, a wearer of the bronze button.

"For the purpose of meeting the opinion we have some time heard expressed that fraud is a prominent feature of the pension department, we will submit for your consideration an extract from the report of the attorney general of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1900. This report discloses the number of convictions for infractions of the internal revenue laws to have been 3,758—of the postal laws 772—and of the pension laws only 145. and of this number but a small fraction was committed by the soldiers. We think this showing will be sufficient to convince any fair-minded person of the honesty of the comrades in their efforts to secure what is justly due them under the law and to establish the integrity of the pension roll." Favors a Service Pension: "In my judgment the time has arrived when every loyal, union soldier, who has received an honorable discharge, should receive a pension at the hands of the nation. A service pension law should be urged by our comrades and passed by the next congress, and I earnestly recommend that this department will pass suitable service pension resolutions."

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