

**Custer Co. Republican**

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 D. M. AMSBERRY, Editor  
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Thursday, December 17, 1903.

Reed Smoot, congressman from Utah, will have to meet the charges of being an apostle of Mormonism. Congress will investigate.

The semi-annual apportionment of the state school fund has been made by state superintendent Fowler. The apportionment is based on \$255,482, to be apportioned to 376,303 persons of school age. The rate per capita is a fraction less than 68 cents. Custer county gets \$5,328.92.

J. Forrest Marston, who has been posing as a minister of the Gospel, is wanted by Insurance Deputy Pierce of the State Auditors office. It appears that Marston has swindled a number of persons in the state by selling them accident and burglar insurance for which he gave them nothing in return for their money.

Gen. Colby, against whom the Federal Grand Jury found an indictment for selling blankets to the state for which he made no accounting states that he is innocent of the charge and that he has notified the proper authorities that he was ready to make an accounting when they would straighten out the books which were incorrect.

Several county treasurers who remitted too much school fund money to the state treasurer last year probably will experience a great deal of difficulty in getting the surplus cash returned. Last winter the legislature ordered the matter straightened by drawing warrants against the permanent fund, but Treasurer Motensen has decided to refuse to comply with the order, asserting that the fund is inviolate, and cannot be drawn against it under any circumstances whatever. His position is that no matter if thousands of dollars should be annexed to the fund through mistake, not a penny of it could be withdrawn.

The marvelous industrial development of the United States during the past decade contains no record that can compare with the growth of our great iron and steel industry. The whole fascinating story of the evolution from very small beginnings of the wonderful aggregation of cooking ovens, blast furnaces, and rolling mills, which render the valley of the Monongahela the very center of the world's iron

and steel industries, has never been told. In a special number devoted to Iron and Steel exclusively, the Scientific American presents an authoritative account of how we have out-distanced all other countries in the production of iron and steel. How wonderful that development has been, is shown by the mere fact that in 1810 there were produced in the United States but 53,908 tons of pig iron, and that in 1902 the output of pig iron passed far beyond that of our nearest competitor, Great Britain, reaching the huge total of 16,821,307 tons. How this vast output of pig iron is converted into armor plate, gun steel, structural shapes, tubes, rails, and steel and wire, besides a host of other things, it is this special number's purpose to tell.

The attention of the Congressmen from Nebraska is called to the resolution passed last winter by the state legislature recommending an amendment to the Homestead law, so as to provide for a homestead of a Section of land instead of 160 acres in the Sand Hill country. A united effort on the part of the Congressmen and Senators from Nebraska, who understand the situation should be able to secure this needed amendment within the present session of congress. No person will homestead a quarter section of the Sand Hills with expectation of occupying it any great length of time for the simple reason he cannot sustain himself on that amount of land in the sand hill country. Were the opportunity given to homestead a section it would be an inducement that would soon populate that territory with prosperous ranchmen and their families. Thousands of young men would be afforded an opportunity to go there and build up homes and small ranches. That would certainly be an improvement over the present arrangement, which only permits of a few ranchmen with their thousands of cattle, run principally on government land. A provision for a Section homestead would result in all the land being taken and twenty families would be provided for where but one family is now. The land after being proved up would be a perpetual source of revenue in way of taxes for the county and state in which it is located, besides the personal property that would accumulate on these small ranches. Under present conditions a few men occupy the whole territory and the county and state receive but little benefit from it. The removing of the fences from the government land which is now being pushed so vigorously by the government will not change the situation materially. The large ranchmen will continue to occupy the government land by employing herders, which expense has been saved by their fences. No one will venture upon the cattleman's range to homestead 160 acres of sand hills as it would not be congenial or profitable. But let the government give every homesteader a section of that land and in a very short time every section of the territory will be occupied by bonifide home seekers.

**Coughing spell Caused Death.**  
 "Harry Duckwell, aged 25 years, choked to death early yesterday morning at his home, in the presence of his wife and child. He contracted a slight cold a few days ago and paid but little attention to it. Yesterday morning he was seized with a fit of coughing which continued for some time. His wife sent for a physician but before he could arrive, another coughing spell came on and Duckwell died from suffocation.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Dec. 1, 1901." Ballard's Horehound Syrup would have saved him. 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Sold by Ed. McComas, Broken Bow and Merna.

**For Rent**  
 Farms, to right parties, with plenty of teams, good tools and force to run them. Address, P. O. Box 136, Broken Bow, Neb.

**THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.**

By Dr. C. Pickett.  
 CHAPTER IV.

This whole subject is a remarkable episode in the history of this country and from its conspicuous absence from our written history it might well be doubted, but the occurrences here related are substantially true and are many of them dramatically described in Uncle Toms Cabin. Indeed the thing reads almost like a fairy tale but the necessities of the cases seemed always to justify the means used even to the privation from the whole truth that the participants were often compelled to resort to. Here is one instance where the ingenuity and daring bravery of a woman was plainly shown and fully realized by some men who had for their purpose the taking of two escaped girls back to slavery.

One Milly Wilherson if I remember the name right, lived in a colored settlement near the mouth of Cabin Creek where it joins White River in Randolph county. This settlement were free colored people who had been emancipated by their master or masters in term and settled there. By some means best known to the officers of the underground railroad, two girls of 14 and 16 years or perhaps less, grandchildren of Mrs. Wilherson had escaped from their masters in Tennessee and stopped with their grand parents, Mrs. and Mrs. W. The master who was said to be a preacher hearing of the whereabouts of his property came to a neighboring settlement of white people collected a posse of fifteen armed men headed by another preacher and with an officer and a search warrant proceeded to the Wilherson home which consisted of two log cabins built a few feet apart with the space between enclosed making three rooms but having only one outside door. Mr. Wilkerson was not at home. Mrs. Wilkerson was a powerful woman but little past the prime of life. Weighing over 200 pounds and who could use an ax or a rifle equal to the average back woodsman. When she saw her home and loved ones thus threatened she did not faint nor scream but just planted herself in the door armed not like the more modern "Carrie" with a hatchet, but with a good broad corn cutter (A pretty formidable weapon I imagine) told the men she would hew in peices the first man and the next, who attempted to enter, with as much neatness and dispatch as Old Samuel did Agag the Amalekiteish king before the Lord. She had a grandson with her in the house, a mere lad but who had some of the blood of his grandmother in his veins, whom she dispatched through a back window and ordered him to mount a horse after getting the trumpeter that hung on the wall and blow for "de Lord's" sake to raise the neighbors. The slave hunters seeing the boy on the horse commanded him to stop but he was not just then in a stopping mood, nor did he stand on the order of his going but went. The men fired several shots at him and one grazed his elbow, but this only made him ride the faster and blow the harder. Soon a large number of colored people were on the ground—these were allowed to pass in and out of the cabin at will, but the officer with the search warrant was not allowed to enter. While this was going on the girls were dressed in boys clothing. An intelligent son of the old lady demanded to see the warrant, read it slowly and found fault with it all for the purpose of consuming time. When all things were ready the girls came out unrecognized, passed through the crowd and at a little distance from the house sheltered by the thick woods, from a log they mounted behind two horsemen and rapidly conveyed to Newport to Uncle Lewis where they were concealed awaiting "a more convenient season." Shortly after the girls were gone there was a compromise affected


by which the slave hunters were allowed to enter the house and search for their property provided however if found, the girls should be taken to the county seat and have a fair trial. On entering instead of screams from frightened girls, deep cursing from disappointed slave hunters were heard and some ivory teeth showed quite conspicuously in the jaws of the blacks who were in the plot. When Newport and vicinity was searched in vain for several days the girls were sent to Canada.

I have often wondered when I sat in Quaker meeting and saw John and Yimri Bond sitting on or near the "top shelf" (that is the gallery) whether they had any hand in the above transaction, and the silent answer was thus, I imagined that they did in all but the threatened use of the corncutter, for according to Friends Disciplin they thought that this kind of work was not what the corncutters was created for, but "for a more noble and glorious purpose" of putting up corn fodder for milch cows in the winter time and furnishing the immortal Whitcome Riley something to weave into his poetry, for how should he allude to the frost being on the pumpkin and the fodder in the shock if there had been no corncutters.

Many exciting occurrences and some amusing ones as well took place in the progress of events.

At Oberlin, Ohio, noted for its seat of learning and college advantages, a town always abolition in sentiment and (here let us moralize again) whose noted college I believe was the first to open her doors to the admission of women students on an equality with male students. This seems to be in the eternal fitness of things. All honor to the college in those dark days where the rights of all were respected without respect to sex, color or previous condition of servitude and without the consent of the fugitive slave law and regarding the Dred Scott decision as inimical to the declaration of independence that all men are born free and equal and should have said, all women too.

There were many ruses practiced by the inhabitants of Oberlin in helping the slave gain his freedom. You know it is quite common for white students to black themselves to represent the colored people in our exhibitions, but on the occasion of which I now speak the students had concealed a fleeing slave, for a few days and felt they had an elephant on hand; but some genius was equal to the occasion, and suggested painting him white which was done and he rode off quietly to a secure place miles



**MRS. CECELIA STOWE,**  
 Orator, Entro Nous Club.  
 176 Warren Avenue,  
 CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 22, 1902.  
 For nearly four years I suffered from ovarian troubles. The doctor insisted on an operation as the only way to get well. I, however, strongly objected to an operation. My husband felt disheartened as well as I, for home with a sick woman is a desolate place at best. A friendly druggist advised him to get a bottle of Wine of Cardui for me to try, and he did so. I began to improve in a few days and my recovery was very rapid. Within eighteen weeks I was another being.  
*Cecelia Stowe*  
 Mrs. Stowe's letter shows every woman how a home is saddened by female weakness and how completely Wine of Cardui cures that sickness and brings health and happiness again. Do not go on suffering. Go to your druggist today and secure a \$1.00 bottle of Wine of Cardui.  
**WINE OF CARDUI**

**SANTA CLAUS**  
 —AT—  
**J. C. BOWEN'S**

He is holding high glee with us this year, because we are stocked with the finest line of **Lamps** in Custer county at about one-half of our competitors prices. Call and look at them. One of these **Lamps** would make a beautiful Xmas Gift. We are also heavily stocked with a pure and wholesome line of.....

**New 1903 Candies**

New Walnuts, Philberts, Hazel Nuts, Pecans, Almonds, Peanuts, Chestnuts.  
 China Cracker Jars, Plates, Cups, Mugs, Water Sets, Shaving Mugs, Sauce Dishes, Cake Plates, etc., etc.

**For Your Christmas Dinner:**

Oysters, Celery, Cranberries, Figs, Dates, Nuts, Oranges, Bannanas, Grapes, Raisins, York State Apples, Sweet Apple Cider.  
 Pure Honey—comb and extract—B made.

Send your Christmas Tree committee to us. We will save you money.  
 Yours for Health,  
**J. C. BOWEN,**  
**Xmas. 1903.**

away turned his horse loose and took the cars for Canada.

At Oberlin several slaves were conveyed out of town in broad daylight under a load of hay to another place of safety. At one time they sent out a decoy wagon with several free colored people, some dressed as women, knowing that they would be followed which they were and the whole company arrested. As much delay as possible was made and in three or four hours the hunters found that this was a "sell," but it furnished time for several real fugitives to be shipped over the road without detection.

At one time Henry Sugart of Grant county, Indiana, had in his keeping, a fugitive slave who was a man but quite diminutive in size weighing little more than a hundred pounds. The hunters were known to be close onto him and so Henry tied him up in a bundle of fodder and threw him into a pile of bundle in the barn. Soon the hunters came and after going through the premises and finding nothing they insisted on examining the fodder stack. Henry said all right "and as I want to feed some to the cattle anyhow, I will help you." So coming to the particular sheaf and being a big stout man he just carried, not "the nigger in the wood pile" but in the bundle of fodder and threw the fodder, darky, body, breaches and all to the cows. After the hunters had gone he fished him out and set him on a stool or sent him to school or sent him to Canada. If you wish to know just which he did you ask my friend Nelson Brandenburg of the Merna table

and whatever he says I will vouch for as he was a neighbor of Sugart at the time spoken of.

Old Mr. Hadgins, father of the afterwards Prof. Hadgins, used to tell a story of an anti-slavery german named Ramizer, who was a huckster traveling over the country buying up poultry, rabbits, quails and selling fish and other things that the farmers needed. His wagon was covered and had a hen coop at the back end. A small place in the back part was cut off from the front by a partition also reaching up to the cover so that one looking into the wagon from the front end would seem to be looking at the part against which the hencoop was fastened. Barrels, kegs, and boxes usually fill-


**C HOLIDAYS**



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