

Custer Co. Republican

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 Death notices free, half price for publishing obituary notices, and cards of thanks.
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Thursday, February 23, 1905.

Nebraska Methodists are planning an important Missionary convention to be held in St. Paul's Church, Lincoln, February 28, March 2. The purpose of the convention is to bring together the state, Conference and District officers of the different organizations of the church, the pastors and representatives from the local churches and young people's societies within the bounds of Nebraska, for the consideration of some of the problems fundamental to the Christian occupation of the unevangelized nations and also for prayer, fellowship and conference concerning methods and the best helps available for the fulfilling of the great missionary purpose of the church. The keynote of the gathering is announced as "Nebraska Methodism and World Evangelism." The convention will be a delegated body. Among the speakers will be some of the best of the denomination.

The South Loup Electric Railway.

P. F. Campbell of Georgetown, was among our friendly callers Saturday. Mr. Campbell has taken an active interest in the proposed Grand Island, South Loup and Gandy electric railway, and still feels that the project could be built if those along the proposed route would manifest sufficient interest. But up to the present that has not been done. He informs us that when the straw vote was taken last fall in the several township to ascertain whether they would favor bonds for the road, that only ten of the sixteen townships along the proposed line responded, and in those townships where the vote was taken there were those who gave active opposition.

When the secretary at Grand Island sent out letters to capitalists, giving the data gathered, with the hopes of enlisting an interest, no response was received from any of them. He regards that the cause of this was because so few of the townships had made a showing, and the active opposition by some along the proposed route. He argues that if the residents along the proposed route have not enough interest to take the preliminary steps to secure a survey and estimate of cost of building and equipping the road, that capitalists will not be inclined to invest in the enterprise.

A practical engineer to determine the cost in building the road and the cost of water power at Georgetown to operate it, he regards as one of the first requisites necessary to success. As the greater population and wealth is on the eastern end of the proposed route, it devolves upon the people of Grand Island, the precincts of Hall, Buffalo, and the eastern portion of the

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proposed road in Custer county to bear the greater part of this preliminary expense. Unless these localities wake up to the situation and to a man put their shoulders to the wheels, the enterprise must fail.

That County Board Contract.

Some two or three weeks ago the officers of the county board by authority of the board entered into a contract with S. O. Salisbury, an attorney of Lincoln to pay him one half the proceeds of any amount he might find due from the state to the county arising from over payment of state taxes. It appears that Salisbury had made the discovery that a number of the counties of the state had balances to their credit with the state treasurer arising from the county treasurers paying to the state treasurers more than the amount charged against them.

His theory was that as these amounts were usually small no one county could afford to go the expense of ascertaining the amount due, but as he would enter into a contract with several of the counties he could afford to make the research of the records that was necessary, but that he could not afford to do it for less than 50 per cent of the claims. The board not being aware of any such claims against the state entered into contract with Salisbury on his own terms. It was upon learning that the board had made that kind of a deal Senator Fries looked the matter up in the state treasurer's office and found that the records showed that Custer county had paid to the state treasurer for the year of 1895, \$3,399.57 more than was charged against the county. He writes us that he at once filed a claim with the legislative claim committee to have the amount refunded to Custer county without the assistance of Mr. Salisbury. He thinks the board acted hastily in entering into a contract to pay him 50 per cent of what he could find due the county, and suggests that had the county board requested him or either of the other two members of the legislature from Custer to look the matter up they would have gladly done it without the county having incurred one cent of expense.

As it now stands should the county get the \$3,399.57 due it, means that Salisbury will get half of it unless some citizen files a protest against his claim. We

Grave Trouble Unseen.

It needs but little foresight, to tell, that when your stomach and liver are badly affected, grave trouble is ahead, unless you take the proper medicine for your disease, as Mrs. John A. Young, of Clay, N. Y., did. She says: "I had neuralgia of the liver and stomach, my heart was weakened, and I could not eat. I was very bad for a long time, but in Electric Bitters, I found just what I needed, for they quickly relieved and cured me." Best medicine for weak women. Sold under guarantee by Lee Bros. Druggist, at 50c a bottle.

can assure the tax payers that will be done.

The 1895 tax was levied the last year of J. H. Brown's administration as treasurer, but under the old law did not become due and delinquent until the year following. For the four succeeding years when most of the 95' tax was doubtless collected H. Lomax was treasurer, but as there has been delinquent taxes collected on 95' by every treasurer since, the payment of the excess evidently can not be justly charged up to any one treasurer without an investigation of the records.

The error, if one is more than likely due to corrections made by the county clerk's, in making up the tax list from which he certified the amount due the state auditor.

The corrections are usual made, one at a time as the tax payer finds an error, in his taxes and the corrections are not certified to the state auditor and the original charge stands against the county right or wrong, for more or less. In this particular year of 95' it appears there was a large number of errors or one large one made by the county clerk in his certificate.

Telephone Franchise Passed.

At the meeting of the city council last Friday night the telephone ordinance granting the Central Telephone Co. a new franchise was put upon its third reading and passed. The ordinance is not exclusive, the object being to give the county lines that wish to establish a central in Broken Bow. The franchise is granted for a period of ten years. The city reserves the right to place wires and fixtures on the telephono poles for use of police and fire alarms and requires free phones at the city hall and water work's plant.

In providing for twenty four hour services, the company is allowed to charge five cents for each connection between 10 o'clock P. M. and 6 o'clock A. M.

The Central Telephone Co. is required to connect with all other telephone lines entering the city and a charge not to exceed 5 cents for each connection, the outside lines to have the option of connecting or establishing a central of their own.

A charge of one dollar for residence property and a dollar and fifty cents for business houses, as

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has been the rule in the past is provided by the ordinance.

The ordinance further provides that parties using one or more phones shall have a rate of one dollar a month for service over the entire Central telephone system in Custer county and within a radius of fifty miles of Broken Bow, provided the number of calls does not exceed thirty in a month. In case the calls exceed thirty per month a charge of fifteen cents per call will be allowed charged. The Telephone Co. is required to keep and maintain good and efficient operators, in its central office at all hours of the day and night and to furnish good and prompt service.

The Telephone Co. is required to keep all receivers and wire in good working order without additional expense to the subscribers and on failure to do so the company shall forfeit double the prorated amount of rent for the time the telephone is out of order.

The ordinance as a whole is on the lines that the company have been doing business since its first organization, the main difference is that the terms are now fixed by ordinance. A new feature is making the company responsible for double the rate, for allowing the phone or lines to remain out of order, and making the connecting with county lines obligatory and fixing the rate for connections. Upon the whole, the ordinance appears fair to the telephone company, outside lines and the public in general. There is a question in the minds of some if it would not have been better to have given the Central Telephone Co. an exclusive franchise, with the provisions for the county lines to connect and then charged the telephone company a reasonable fee for the franchise right, for the benefit of the city finances.

An exclusive franchise would have made the plant worth a

great deal more to the company, and it could well have afforded to well paid the city out of the increased value. The company could have well afforded to have issued stock to the amount of ten thousand or fifteen thousand dollars to the city for an exclusive right for ten years and then had a good margin of profit left.

See the ordinance as published in this week's issue of the REPUBLICAN.

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