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Entered at Broken Bow, Nebraska, for transmission in the United States mails at second class rates.

D. M. AMSBERRY, - Publisher
CHAS. K. BASSETT, - Editor

Thursday, Jan. 9, 1908.

There is an effort on the part of some men in public life to restore the position of vice-president to the place in popular estimation which was intended by the framers of the constitution. At present the position is regarded as a refrigerator for political ambitions—a sop thrown to men of the second class. This idea is an incorrect estimate of the place. The uncertainties of life make the second place on the national ticket extremely important, and the many men who have been advanced to first place by reason of having accepted the vice-presidency is sufficiently convincing of that fact. President Roosevelt is a striking illustration of the possibilities of the vice-presidency. The time should come when high political ability should aspire to the second place on the ticket and the contest should be as spirited as for the first honors.

There is some disposition on the part of the candidates for different higher offices to use their little hammer. This is to be deplored. There is no reason why the political fight may not be made in a good natured way. Recriminations will not have a beneficial result. There is a disposition on the part of the average voter to resent "knocking" tactics and such a campaign will result disastrously for those who persist in that method to get votes.

Nothing could make a happier new year than the spirit of the moment. Only the croaking few see trouble now or to come. Money is almost as free as before the flurry, trade expands, factories resume and another generous crop is almost in sight. The great prosperity play goes on.

The report that the telegraphers were planning another strike next June—after the disastrous results of the recent affair—do not seem creditable. The organization requires greater cohesion, better discipline and a larger strike fund before becoming involved in more trouble.

The fashionable boarding school attended by Evelyn (Nesbit) Thaw has been forced into bankruptcy as a result of the notoriety secured by her connection with it. If the school was anything like her diary—written while there—perhaps it didn't close any too soon.

The head of the whiskey trust claims that the people of prohibition states drink more booze than in those commonwealths having high license. Unless he comes out soon—in favor of prohibition it will be quite evident he's a—mistaken.

A New York woman had her husband exhumed twenty days after his burial—in order to have him photographed. Some men are sure enough in hard luck. They can't get away from their wives even by "croaking."

If everybody was as good as everybody expects everybody else to be—the parsons would have to dig ditches for a livelihood and evangelists would get no glory for their good intentions.

Since the prohibition movement in the south the tailors now make the Kentucky Colonel's hip pockets a half gallon size instead of a pint.

At Omaha—it is said—one theatre checks everything but thirst—from half smoked cigar butts to gold watches and babies.

There is a great collection of New Year's resolutions in this vicinity that's—not working at present.

There are indeed some strange things in this world. A man who made his living in and around New York—and other points in the east—for years as a living skeleton, has died of fatty degeneration of the heart.

A medical authority has gone on record with the statement that tough steak is just as nourishing as tender. Many people, however, will not seek him when they want prescription for something to eat.

The superintendent of a St. Louis insane asylum took some of his lady patients on a shopping expedition and thought them sane compared with a few women he met at bargain counters.

Upon a firmer basis than ever the country starts a new year. The financial flurry settled things down. Thirty-three billions of production is going to make fat times in 1908.

Governor Hughes, of New York, will have to make a noise like he's seeking the presidency before he becomes a very formidable figure in the campaign.

If President Roosevelt and Governor Hughes could syndicate on the volubility of the one and the reticence of the other—what an ideal pair they would make.

Some editors are predicting that the next republican convention will be stamped. If it is—it will probably be in the direction of a big fat man.

The spread of prohibition and temperance has been so rapid and widespread that some hospitals are cutting out alcohol baths and rubs.

Those statesmen who spent the holidays at home—with their constituents—have returned to Washington—long on advice.

Republican State Committee Meeting.

A. R. Humphrey attended the Republican State Central committee meeting last night at Lincoln as a member from this district, reaching home this morning, and in answer to the REPUBLICAN'S inquiry as to what took place in the meeting said: "The committee called a state convention to meet at Omaha on the 12th day of March next. The ratio of apportionment will be one delegate from each county and one for every 150 votes cast for the presidential electors four years ago. This is a part of the present primary law. The different counties will hold precinct caucuses and a county convention very much as they did under the old law. There is no provision in the present law for direct primary proceedings in the matter of electing delegates to the National convention, but the committee got as near to a direct primary proposition as it could. The committee adopted rules providing for the printing by the state committee of ballots with the name of all announced candidates for president thereon which will be sent to the chairman of every county, on the request of the county committee, and these tickets will be used by the precincts and the individual voter will be given an opportunity to express his preference for president when he attends the precinct caucus. This vote for president will be canvassed and returned by the precinct committeeman to the chairman of the county committee and by him to the chairman of the state committee and the vote on preference for president will be thus determined. The different precincts will express their preference for president and at the same time elect delegates to a county convention which, in turn, will elect delegates to a congressional and state convention, and these delegates so selected will elect two delegates from the congressional convention and four from the state convention to attend the National convention at Chicago, June 16th. I think this system approaches a direct vote on the presidential preference by the individual as nearly as the present primary law will justify.

"The date of the county convention and the date of the precinct caucuses and the date of the congressional convention are left to the different organizations of the county and district and will soon be announced.

"Everybody in the east end of the state seems to be for Taft for president. If Roosevelt had not eliminated himself the whole state would have been for him. Taft is next choice."

You May Need It

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SENATOR BURKETT IS LOYAL

Protects His Constituents Against the Criticism of His Home Town.

The article of Senator Burkett against closing the Broken Bow land office is one to be commended. He shows himself able to realize that other localities than his home town has rights that it is his duty to protect.

While the Broken Bow land office is not as great a factor in the community as a State Normal school or a federal court it does contribute very largely to the business interests of Broken Bow. In the past year there has been about 600 entries made; one hundred forty final proofs; one hundred fifty contests tried at the office, which brought no less than 600 ligants and witnesses. Not less than twenty five hundred people visit Broken Bow annually in transacting land office business. These people all contribute more or less to the hotels, restaurants, merchants and other business interests of the town.

It provides a salary list for officers and employes to the amount of \$600 a month, which is all spent here. It provides quite a revenue for the attorneys whose money is also distributed in the community.

But the interest the office is to Broken Bow is small compared with which its location is to the general public. There are yet more than a million acres of government land in the Broken Bow land district subject to homestead entry. As fully 90 per cent of the homesteaders that are now entering land are from the east and south, it is a great accommodation for them to stop off at Broken Bow and consult the records and plats to find where they want to go to look for land. Selecting their land they return to Broken Bow on their way home, make their entry. If the office at Broken Bow was discontinued and the greater part of the district assigned to Alliance as was contemplated by the recommendations of inspector Macy, the homeseekers would have to have gone to Alliance to consult the plats, then back 100 miles to select his land, then return to Alliance to file and then return home, making an extra travel of about 400 miles, besides three or four days extra time and expense. In the aggregate the extra expense would amount to several thousand dollars annually to the people.

In the matter of final proofs, which will become more numerous when the Kinkaiders shall want to make proof, would greatly in convenience and add to the expense were they compelled to go to Alliance or Lincoln to make proof instead of Broken Bow. There are fully one million and a half acres now homesteads on which proof will be made within the next three or four years.

In view of these facts, Senator Burkett is to be commended, for the stand he has taken is reported in the press dispatches this morning in defense of the criticism made against him in the Lincoln paper, in which reads as follows:

Washington, D. C., Jan. 8.—Senator Burkett got right warm under the collar when he was shown an article in the Lincoln Journal criticising the Nebraska delegation for trying to prevent the closing of the land offices at Broken Bow and O'Neill.

The offices, on the contrary, are not likely to be closed soon. The work of the delegation has stopped it. Senator Burkett gave out this statement:

"I can't speak for the other members, but while I remain in congress I shall fight for every interest and part of my state. Broken Bow and O'Neill are the same to me as Lincoln as far as my duties go. The land offices at Broken Bow and O'Neill are as of great importance to these towns and to the people who live there as are the federal court and the new building to Lincoln. And the appeal of the people of Broken Bow to me is just as important as that of anybody else. I hope I shall never be charged with failing to work for every interest of Nebraska and for every part of it. These towns are entitled to consideration. The inhabitants are human and they like to keep whatever of advantage they may have. I do not think the Lincoln papers should refuse Broken Bow so small a prize as a land office when Lincoln got a federal court, a new postoffice, a city hall and a few other things that I haven't time to mention.

"Economy to the government is not the only thing to be thought of in its relation to the people. If it were, then the government might for economy's sake close the postoffices at Havelock and College View and have the people get their mail at Lincoln. It would certainly be more economical for the government to have only one postoffice in a county, but it would not be economical nor satisfactory to the people. It might be more economical to the government to close all the land offices except one in Nebraska, but it would not be either convenient or economical for the people.

"There are thousands of acres of government land in the vicinity of the land offices sought to be closed. There are hundreds of people in the vicinity who want to consult the records and the maps and otherwise to transact business with the land department and it would be many more times expensive in the end—hence many times more unjust to chase the people clear across the state simply to save a few dollars expense to the government. The fact that these offices are self-sustaining indicates that there is an abundance of business to be done at both places. I dislike, of course, to be criticized by my home papers for fighting for home interests, but I would rather have their criticism than go back on any portion of Nebraska."

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