

CUSTER COUNTY REPUBLICAN

SUBSCRIPTION \$1 PER ANNUM

ADVERTISING RATES.

Where matter is a long and has no illustrations, a flat price of twenty cents per inch, single column, for each insertion. Two or more insertions 15 cents per inch. Special position, single insertion 25 cents per inch. Metal base, electric, two or more times, 25 cents per inch. Payment first of each month.

Local advertising by cents per line each insertion.

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Card of Thanks, 50 cents.

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Wedding notices free, half price for list of presents.

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

Herbert G. Myers, Editor and Publisher.

A DUTY OF THE COMMERCIAL CLUB

A Commercial club was recently organized in Broken Bow for the purpose of securing greater unity and more effective work in building up the city and boosting its interest. The organization of this club was taken as an indication that the entire population of the city was ready to stand together for anything which was for the interest of the city. The Commercial club has no jurisdiction whatever, over the municipal water question, but the officers of the club should be interested in seeing that the interest of the water system is properly cared for. They should be interested in seeing that the municipal ownership of the water system is made as great a success as possible. In a case of this kind the water taker is bound to make his pocket-book one of the first considerations when the water bill comes around, and if the rate seems high to him, he may feel like deserting the city in its attempt to make a municipal ownership of the plant to the interest of everybody. In the large majority of these cases, if the matter is properly presented to them and they are brought to understand the reason for the high rate, or in case of error if their complaints are properly adjusted, they will remain water takers under the city system instead of a private establishment.

The Municipal Ownership problem of the city water works was undertaken, because it was believed to be to the interest of the majority of the people of the city. It was undertaken because the promoters of the idea believed, that better water could be secured at cheaper rates under the old system of private ownership.

The rates at the present time seem to be high, but they are high, because it is necessary to use part of the money collected on water rent to put the water system in proper condition and not because the municipal ownership plan is not really a success. The fact that the water system has been and is in bad condition, makes it all the more necessary that they should have the patronage and influence of every man in Broken Bow, and the fact that the present high rates are due to the necessity of collecting additional money, in order to make repairs gives promise of a lower rate in the future.

The officers of the club should use their influence to see that every man who is now a water taker remains as such and should try to secure the enthusiastic co-operation of all of the people.

GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

It is expected that another electric light man will be in the city the first of next week to look up the question of putting in an electric light system here.

The people of Broken Bow seem to be practically agreed that an electric light system

should be put in, if a party can be found who will put in a private plant under a franchise which is satisfactory to the people. Some people seem to believe that more satisfactory results can be obtained by combining the present gas company with the new electric light company.

Their idea seems to be that under such a proposition, the gas company could furnish gas for fuel purposes and the electric light company could be used for lighting purposes and to furnish power. Other people believe that better results for the consumer will be obtained by keeping the two companies separate. They point out that with two separate companies, there will be competition in rates and it would not be necessary for the city council to insist upon a minimum rate, because the rates would be made low by competition. In support of their argument for giving a franchise to an electric light company separately, they point out the fact, that a municipality very often finds it difficult to deal with a corporation which has a monopoly. When a corporation becomes definitely settled it is, sometimes difficult to compel them to give as low rates as they should and when they have their franchise, they feel they are in a position to be independent.

If the city council finds it advisable to grant a franchise to the gas and electric light company, they should be certain that the franchise gives them power to properly regulate the companies and place them in a position to insist upon the company charging such a rate as will give it no more than a fair profit.

WALTER W. WATERS.

Candidate For County Superintendent—
His Qualifications.

Walter W. Waters, who in this issue of the REPUBLICAN announces his candidacy for County Superintendent is essentially a Custer County product. Walter as a boy attended the country schools of this county and was graduated from the Broken Bow High School after an attendance of five years. Immediately thereafter he was a teacher of country schools for several terms. He was graduated from the higher course of State Normal School at Peru, Nebr., in 1898. Since that time he has been employed as principle of village and town schools and later as superintendent of city schools. He holds a professional state certificate good for life, and has kept himself posted in educational affairs by attending and taking an actual part in prominent conventions of teachers having attended as an actual member three national meetings; viz at Chicago Ill., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Asbury Park, New Jersey. He was for four years a member of an exclusive organization known as the Nebraska Schoolmasters Club. He has had a very valuable experience in every department of our public school system as teacher in country, town and village schools and as city superintendent. He has also been on the teaching force in summer schools and teachers' institutes. He is practically a Custer County product. At present he lives on his farm in Berwyn precinct and teaches during the fall and winter months; farming during the cropping season.

THE WATER RATES.

Some of the Broken Bow people are threatening to put down wells and have their own water system, because their rates for the past six months have been so high. The water commissioner states that in some of these cases, he thinks the high rate has been due to a leak or the improper working of the water meter, while in other cases the high charge is due to the excessive



use of water. The commissioner says that three-fourths of the people who paid in advance on the flat rate last July and have since put in a meter, have received rebates. This he thinks is positive evidence that the judicious use of water under the meter system is cheaper to the consumer, than the flat rate. He thinks that this is not a loss to the city in any sense because it costs the city so much to pump every gallon of water, and if a water taker puts in a meter and is more saving in using his water, it means that the city will not have the water to pump and consequently lose nothing through the rebates they have made.

The water commissioner estimates that about \$2,000 of the amount collected on water rents in the last year, has been paid out for repairs on the water system. The pump house at the time the city purchased the plant was in very bad condition and moreover, some of the water mains had to be re-

paired. The bonds voted at the time the water system was purchased, provided only for the purchase price of the system and made no allowance whatever, for the cost of putting the water system in good condition. The result is, that the cost of the repairs must come out of the money paid for water rent.

An investigation will show that the water rates in Broken Bow are considerable higher than the water rates in some of the municipalities where their water system is in good repair, but the municipalities having lower rates, are not compelled to use a good share of the money collected on water rents to repair up an old system, which was in bad condition. The water commissioner estimates that it will be necessary to pay out in the neighborhood of \$3,000 in the next year to repair up the water system and get it in proper working order.

Taking all these things into

consideration, it is only fair to expect that the rate will be high until such a time as the city council is able to get the water system repaired up in good working order. When this is done the rates should be, and no doubt will be lower. Each individual case where an excessive charge is claimed by the water taker should, according to the franchise be taken before the water committee of the city council. The franchise provides that the water taker shall pay his bill under protest and then take it to the water committee and have it decided on its merits. As to what should be done in each one of these cases is a matter to be left to the water committee.

The people of Broken Bow purchased this water system and started out to operate it on the plan of municipal ownership. It is work undertaken by the people of Broken Bow through their representatives, the city council, and is a work which should have the united support of all the people of this city. No undertaking can be really successful without the united support of the people behind it.

This statement of facts is offered largely as an explanation for the present condition and is given in the hope that there may be a better understanding among the people of this city and a more enthusiastic spirit of co-operation in a work that is to the interest of the whole city.



Wrong Watches Made Right.

Every tick that that watch of yours ticks while it needs cleaning means a shortening of its life.

A clean watch is just about frictionless.

A dirty watch is a watch that is ticking its way to destruction.

Don't you know that our repair department exists for the purpose of putting wrong watches right.

'Tis a fact.

Can we be of service to YOU in this particular?

A. E. Anderson
JEWELER AND OPTICIAN

JUST A MINUTE

Come in and let us show you the many features of the Moore Glass Oven Door Range that attracted so much attention at the School of Agricultural last week. Miss Myrtle Kauffman being instructor of Domestic Science at the State University knows a good stove. She was so well pleased with the Moore Glass Oven Door Range furnished by Miller & Kennedy that she unhesitatingly tendered her testimonial to them. Miss Kauffman says:

I do not hesitate to endorse the the Moore Glass Oven Door Range which I used during the Domestic Science Short Course at Broken Bow, I find it a Great Fuel Saver, a Quick and Even Baker and the Glass Oven Door enabled me to tell the exact condition of the food without cooling the oven which certainly gives better results.

Myrtle Kauffman.

Come in and let us talk stove. We will tell you all about it.

How Many Bricks Have You Sent Away?

That sounds like a funny question, addressed to every citizen of this town and community, but it's really a serious one. Listen: There is now just completed a magnificent building of red brick exterior and concrete interior right in the business heart of one of the biggest of American cities. It occupies a whole block and calls itself in a large lettered sign "The Largest Monolithic Building in the World." It has many floors, with about a hundred acres of floor space. The entrances are of solid marble. The floors are beautifully tiled. Altogether it is a credit to the big city in which it stands. Oh, it's a Jim Dandy!

Now, how many bricks have you sent to the city to go into this big building? Honest, how many?

Of the hundreds of thousands of bricks put into the walls of this building the city where it stands has contributed not a single red brick. Country people, the people of small towns and cities far away from the big metropolis, have sent in the bricks for the construction of this splendid edifice.

You may have sent in a few hods of bricks yourself without knowing it.

Listen: This magnificent structure, which ornaments a city you probably never will see yourself, is built of bricks bought with the dollars of people living in towns just like ours—towns that would like to have some new brick buildings themselves now and then. Every dollar contributed to the city building fund means a nice, hefty hod of bricks for this big, beautiful skyscraper, "largest in the world" of its kind. This building was put up, through the kind donations of their unknown country cousins, by a firm that ran a small store in that city a few years ago.

But this firm conceived the cute idea of having thousands of strangers contribute bricks to build its fine, large, new store.

And the building is a Mail Order Store. See?



MILLER & KENNEDY
GENERAL HARDWARE