The McCook Tribune.

VOLUME VII. McCOOK, RED WILLOW COUNTY, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 18, 1889. NUMBER 34.

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The McCook Tribune.

ON TO INDIANAPOLIS.

SOME FACTS FOR THE PRESIDENT-ELECT—THE LAND BUSINESS OF WESTERN NEBRASKA DEMORALIZED BY THE DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION—DEPARTURE OF A DELEGATION TO URGE UPON MR. HARRISON THE NECESSITY OF PUTTING A WESTERN MAN AT THE HEAD OF THE LAND DEPARTMENT.

A party of half a dozen gentlemen deeply interested in the development of the western part of the state started Saturday for Indianapolis for the purpose of securing an interview with the president elect. They do not go to boom any particular man for a position in the cabinet, but they will urge that a western man be placed at the head of the land department.

Mr. L. Morse, treasurer of Dundy county, came in yesterday with a large package of documents and stat'stical matter which will be brought to the attention of Mr. Harrison. "The people of the western part of the state have suffered greatly on account of the contemptible policy of the land commissioner," said Mr. Morse to a Journal reporter, "and they desire to have the land department put in the hands of men who have some knowledge of the needs of the west. The value of the land in the southwestern part of the state has been depreciated greatly by the foolish work of the department. For the first time in the history of Dundy county we have corn and hogs to ship out this year, having been blessed with a good crop. Prices of land ought to be firm, and constantly increasing. The fact is that we can't get more than we could two and three years ago when the country was perfectly new. Why? Because nobody wants to buy a law suit. That is the gist of the whole matter. I have here in my grip copies of letters from the department in regard to a number of claims upon which patents are withheld. The officials are apparently anxious to harass the settlers as much as they can, and cause trouble upon the slightest technicality. Patents have been withheld for years, because the business of the office has been in arrears. Final proof is made, and then the land is either sold two or three times, each purchaser supposing that the issuing of the patent is only a matter of time. You can see what a panic it will throw the buyers in when they find that the land department is disposed to refuse the patents upon almost any pretext. It unsettles values, drives out the loan and investment companies, and tends to discourage everybody. Under the republican administration the patents were issued just as soon as the work could be done after the final proofs were made. Now since the year 1885, only 720 patents have been received at North Platte and McCook land offices, while final proofs have been made to the number of 742. The balance are just held in the head office, apparently because the officers want to find some ground for refusal of the patent. There is perhaps no malice in it. It is perhaps just ignorance and officiousness. The land tenure of the southwestern corner of the state has been kept in a state of turmoil since 1885, and the result of it all is only twelve cancellations in the McCook district, and these were cases where no defense was made.

"We want a western man at the head of the department. The western people do not want a lax administration of the land laws. It is to their interest to have all of the laws properly enforced. What they object to is this slowness in attending to the business, and this contemptible refusal of patents on the most trivial pretexts. This is the reason we are going to Indianapolis to see Mr. Harrison."

The papers carried by Mr. Morse show that a great deal of wrong is done to the people of the west by the peculiar methods of doing business since the democrats have had control of the land department. In many cases, patents are refused where correct final proofs were entered two and three years ago. It is often impossible to find the original settler to have new proofs made, and affairs are thus left in a sadly mixed state.

The party, consisting of Treasurer Morse of Dundy county, Hon. G. L. Laws, secretary of state, and Messrs. Dolan of Red Willow, Harvey of Orleans, Mills of Republican City and Ivy of Hayes county, started for Indiana Saturday afternoon.—State Journal, Jan. 13.

OMAHA REPUBLICAN OF TUESDAY.

The west also had a strong delegation here to-day from Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Dakota and Wyoming. The prominent members of the party were the Hon. G. L. Laws, secretary of state for Nebraska; the Hon. J. W. Ivey, of Hayes Centre, Neb; E. A. Harvey, of Orleans; James W. Dolan, of Indianola, Neb; J. R. Hamilton, of Newton, Kas; George W. Lumley, of Dakota, and E. D. Miller, of Rapid City. They came to lay before the president elect matters relating to alleged homestead irregularities which they, and the people represented by them, think he should be acquainted with. They urged him to select a broad man for the interior department, who would treat the settlers living on homesteads with humanity, and encourage them to prove up and secure titles to their holdings, instead of impeding their efforts in this direction by technicalities. Secretary of State Laws says that many homesteaders find it almost impossible to secure titles; that the land department is from three to seven years behind in issuing patents. As an example he cites the condition of affairs in the McCook, Neb., land office, where 326 claims have been suspended and the owners put to an expense of $200, which they could not afford, getting witnesses and going a long distance to prove their identity and position. Out of 720 cases of filing of proofs in that office only twelve have been cancelled. There is good reason to believe that the Nebraska delegates suggested the consideration of Hon. J. M. Thurston's name as a suitable head for the interior department.

A Breakfast Idol Shattered.

Another idol shattered. A physician in The American Magazine, says that the practice of beginning breakfast with oatmeal has caused more dyspepsia than any other single habit that he recalls. "It places," he says, "a layer of sticky, pasty, carbonaceous food against a membrane that is already torpid enough and needs sharp stimulus of fruit or douche of water to start gastric secretions, instead of a clogging mass like the meal, that all day long works ill until it is gotten rid of."

POSSIBLY the blacklisting of workmen by employers has been grossly abused. At least that seems to be the view taken of it by the representatives of New Mexico. The Legislature of that Territory has passed a law making it a misdemeanor for any corporation or firm of any kind to blacklist a former employe, and fixes the punishment for the violation of the same at a fine of $500. An injured party may also recover damages under the act. In looking at the labor question one sees that both blacklisting and boycotting should be avoided. One interferes with the rights of labor and the other with the rights of capital. Both are wrong.

IS NEBRASKA to be turned into a national seminary for the educat'on of pedagogues? Fifteen bills have been introduced into the legislature for the establishment of normal schools, and all the back counties have not yet been heard from.

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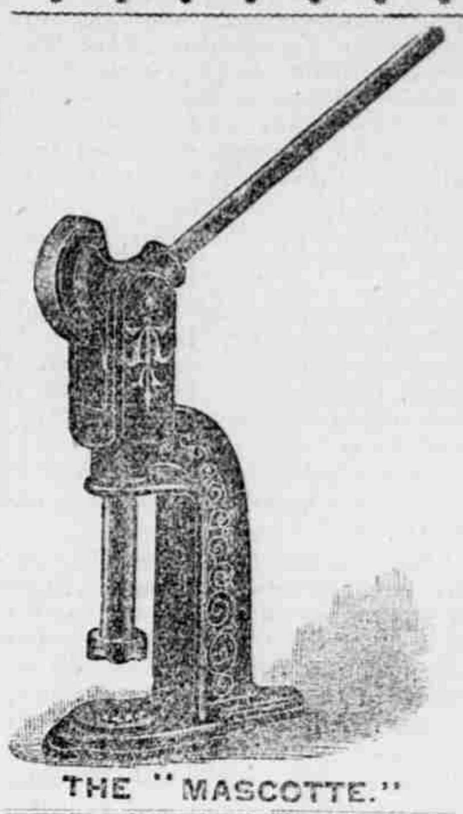

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