EDITORIAL SECTION.

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

PAGES 1 TO 8.

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871. OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 19, 1905. SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.

BRUNING POINTS BIG VALUES

Calls Attention to Practical Features in Discussing county Finances.

PRICES AND VALUES STEADILY GOING UP

Commissioner Thinks This Ought to Be Considered in Controversy Over Situation at the Court House.

Speaking of the recent developments in the discussion of county finances County Commissioner Bruning said:

"One important point has been overlooked in the discussion—that is the increased property valuation, which, with the tax levy unchanged, must necessarily produce a good deal more revenue each year. During the last year we have, I think, accomplished all that could have been expected in the way of retrenchment and cutting down the indebtedness. Half-way measures will not, though, solve the problem that Douglas county is facing. The condition was known long ago and is really not as acute now as it has been many times before. That it must be remedied as soon as possible goes without saying, but just how is the question. Personally I feel it will be solved without difficulty."

Another man connected with county affairs said on the same subject:

"The present agitation, based on the facts set forth in The Bee concerning the condition of the county funds, will serve a good purpose. The condition of affairs is not quite as bad as it has been painted by some, let me say. If it becomes absolutely necessary, there is such a thing known as dating bills ahead; and if the county board should find itself in that position where contractors for supplies would not make further deliveries without being "shown," why, a warrant dated July 2, for instance, or any date after the levy is to be made, probably would bring the needed supplies."

Increase in Everything.

Still another phase of the administration of county finances was thus outlined by a man who is entirely familiar with the county system of making contracts and keeping the books:

"Either Dun's or Bradstreet's agency will tell you that, compared with ten years ago, the cost of all supplies, especially foodstuffs, has increased in that time at least 16½ per cent. Thus, if the county administration ten years ago cost $200,000 it would today cost $235,000, without allowing anything at all for the natural growth in expenditures as population increases or for the many added expenses saddled onto the county by the legislature, such as the juvenile court. The county commissioners have really made a very creditable showing in the last year, all things considered. And another saving this winter will be in the use of steam coal for heating the court house and jail. All the little things count, you know."

Ware Has a Word to Add.

John D. Ware again tackles the subject in the following interview:

"My attention has been called to an article appearing in The Evening Bee of November 16, in which Mr. Fink, the county treasurer, takes the position that the point which I make against his office is not well taken, for the reason the county treasurer is simply a receiving and disbursing officer, who has nothing to do with passing upon the correctness of accounts against the county and has no hand in auditing the same and cannot pass or be asked to pass upon the legality of the warrants which are issued in due form.

"This may be so, but the statute makes each fund received from each current year's levy a separate fund to pay the curent expenses of that year, and requires that 'each warrant shall 'specify the amount levied and appropriated to the fund upon which it is drawn, and the amount already expended of such funds.' If this has not been done, Mr. Fink would have no legal right to pay out money on any of the warrants until the same did appear upon the back of the warrants. If this has been done in the case of the warrants issued, then Mr. Fink can very readily ascertain whether there is any money in the fund created by the levy of 1904, and if there is no money in said fund he has no legal right to pay said warrants out of the money in the fund for 1905, not, at least, until all the claims for 1905 have been allowed and paid.

"If the county treasurer under the law goes out in the open market and buys up outstanding warrants against his county, he is in no better position than any private individual who may buy said warrants; and if said warrants have been illegally issued for an illegal debt, neither the county or any other purchaser can recover on said warrants as against the county if the same is resisted.

"I do not care to discuss this matter in the papers, for it may come up in a different form for discussion, and if it does the newspapers will then get a chance to write it up."

ONE STEP TOWARD RETRENCHMENT

Resolutions to Buy County Patients' Blankets Lost.

A step toward the new policy of retrenchment on county expenses was taken Saturday morning by the Board of County Commissioners. A resolution was offered to buy for the county hospital twenty-five blankets at $2.10 each and twenty-five at $2.00 each. At a committee meeting on Friday the purchase had been agreed to, it seems, but when the matter came up in the board meeting Chairman Kennard raised the question of funds not being available. Commissioners Bruning and Trainor thereupon voted no and the resolution was lost.

Something like a dozen bids were received for the construction of a bridge over the Pappio creek, near the Oakdale school house. The bids ranged in price from $4,000 to $5,000 or over and the board referred them for tabulation. It has not been finally decided to erect this bridge and the main object in advertising for bids was to enable the commissioners to get an idea of what the bridge would cost.

Taxes on the terminal grounds of the Great Western railroad were ordered cancelled on an opinion from the county attorney that to collect the amount would constitute double taxation

MONEY PAID FIRST OF MONTH

Wages of Registrars and Special Police for Election Will Come in Due Time.

Parties serving as registrars and special police at the late election will get their money by the first of the month. The city comptroller has the money and the city clerk has made up the pay roll, so everything is done that has to be done. Heretofore it has been customary for the registrars to have to wait for the new levy before getting their pay, but this year, owing to conditions, they get in earlier. It is the hope of the city clerk that this notice will suffice to pacify the parties and that they will not bother him about the matter any more.

ROOT DEFINES HIS POSITION

Sovereign Commander Favors Unions and Wants No Mixup with Printers.

CANNOT ABROGATE CONTRACTS, THOUGH

Will Do All He Can, He Says, to Obviate Trouble Between Woodmen and the Union.

The officials of the Woodmen of the World and of the Typographical union soon will have another conference regarding the demand made by the union that the order discontinue having any of its printing done at nonunion shops. Unless the Woodmen of the World accede to the demand a request will be sent out for all union printers to withdraw from the order. In discussing the matter Sovereign Commander Root had this to say:

"There is nothing new in the situation. We expect shortly to have another conference with the printers and I think everything will come out satisfactory. The Woodmen of the World has nothing to do with the printing insofar as it goes to a union or a nonunion shop. We let out contracts for printing to the lowest bidder. The firm holding the contract lets the work to other firms. In some instances the work is done by union shops and in other instances by nonunion shops. Most of it, I understand, is done in Chicago.

Can Do Nothing.

"Now, what can we do? Absolutely nothing, except to use our good offices to get the contractor to let the work to union firms. If he refuses we can't take the work away from him. He has a bond to do the work and if it is done right I can't see where we can interfere as to where he gets it printed. Our contract with the firm says nothing about union or nonunion shops.

"Personally I favor the unions, and they have my sympathy, but when it comes to getting the work done at union shops we are tied up. I shall ask our contractor to take back the union printers he let out, but that is as far as I can go. It may be that some of the printers will leave the order, and if they do we can't help it. I am friendly with the unions and friendly with our contractors, and so far no feeling has developed, and I think everything will be settled satisfactorily without ill feeling."

Letter to Lodges.

This letter has been mailed to members of subordinate lodges by Mr. Root:

The laws of the order provide that we shall advertise for bids to furnish the printing and Sovereign Visitor and the committee are required to let contract to the lowest responsible bidder, which has been done. A. I. Root, incorporated, are not the contractors. The company with whom contract was made, as we understand it, are preparing to have all work done by union compositors and union pressmen. Our preferences would be to have the work done by union labor, and as far as we are able to influence this to be done, without involving the order in serious financial loss, we will be glad to do.

Bids for our work are not restricted to Omaha printers only. We had propositions from several other cities and it was awarded to the lowest bidder. Our laws have no restrictions as to the matter. Our order takes no part in any religious, political or other opinions of its members. It is for the single purpose of uniting every element fraternally and providing funds to assure perpetual fraternal life insurance for all its members. Thanking you for your kindly advice, which we assure you is appreciated, I have the honor to remain.

Two Men Promoted.

Joseph B. Short, who has been acting as assistant superintendent of the money order deartment of the Omaha postoffice, has been promoted to the position of superintendent in charge of Station B, at Park avenue and Leavenworth streets. Charles F. Willey, formerly acting superintendent in charge of Station B, becomes assistant superintendent of the money order department, vice Riley, removed.

SMALL AMOUNT IN OLD LINE

Pitiful Minority of Life Insurance at Car Shops Held in Big Companies.

Attaches of the Union Pacific are still perplexed, if not annoyed, at the strange order from E. H. Harriman in New York calling for a statement of the amount of old line insurance each employe of the company carries. Polls to satisfy the demand are still being taken in Omaha and elsewhere along the road. At Cheyenne it is asserted that recently many employes of the Union Pacific forwarded their proxies to Thomas W. Lawson and it is feared knowledge of this fact has reached and aroused Mr. Harriman, who is desirous of getting at the exact facts, so he may be guided in a wholesale decapitation.

The poll of the employes in the car department of the Union Pacific shops in Omaha shows a pitiful minority of insurance in old line companies. The inquiry developed these facts and figures: $584,000 in Ancient Order of United Workmen; $40,000, Modern Woodmen of America; $30,000, Woodmen of the World; $80,000, in miscellaneous small companies, and $8,000 in old liners.

Asked for an explanation of the insurance inquiry, General Manager Mohler disclaimed any knowledge of it, saying it was a matter entirely with Mr. Harriman. The inquiry extends not only all along the Union Pacific, but Southern Pacific, Oregon Short Line and Oregon Railway and Navigation company as well.