

The Muskogee Cimeter.

Volume 6.

Muskogee, Indian Territory, Thursday October 27, 1904.

Number 3.

Mr. Ayers Statement.

Editor Times:

In Thursday's issue of your paper it is stated that I objected to sale of school property for the reason that it was an injustice to the negro children. Now, this was not the reason why the protest was made, nor was it so stated to Mr. Benedict, the school board's representative, and those in attendance at sale. I am not disposed to criticize the school board for their action. They no doubt acted in good faith, and as they believe for the best interests of the schools. But it surely was not good business judgment to sell the lots belonging to the school board. In the first place the ground upon which the old "Dunbar" school house is located, is one of the best sites in the city for a high school building, and in less than five years we will have to pay three times the amount we received to obtain a location for our high school and then not get so desirable a location. Second, the building on this ground could have been moved to some place in the Third ward used for the negro children. This would have relieved the crowded condition of the present "Dunbar" and provided ample room for this class of children for several years to come. Block 80, which was sold for \$2,000, cannot be replaced for \$5,000 five years from this time, and if we grow in proportion in the next five years as we have in the past, a school house in that part of the city will be an absolute necessity. As to debts and pressing obligations of the school board which was given as the reason by them for the sacrifice of this valuable property it is well understood they have no legal right to borrow money or issue debt certificates, yet I believe that if this matter had been presented to the people and the alternative of losing this property or raising the amount required, there are patriotic men in our city who would have secured the money upon the personal guarantee of the board, reinforced by resolutions of the City Council.

Now, this being my opinion in this matter, Mr. Editor, as a citizen and tax payer of this city, I protest against the sale of this property and intend, if there be any legal way of doing so, prevent the school board from passing title to same. If there is no such remedy, then I think we are very unfortunate and those who are to come after us will not call us "blessed" for having sit idly by and allowed this, their heritage, to pass from them. Thanking you for the privilege of making this statement

am,
Yours, etc.,
C. C. AYERS.

The Democrat, a paper published in Muskogee, is giving more attention to the mixed school question than to the national election. They make a straw man and then proceed to tear him down. There is no danger of mixed schools in this territory. The colored people are not clamoring for it, and hence the white people have nothing to fight. A few sap headed political misfits are attempting to start the mixed school question as a

club to create dissention in the republican party, and make votes for the democrats in the new state. They pretend to believe that if we are annexed to Oklahoma that we will have mixed schools. Now, this pretention is a lie on its face, as they do not have mixed schools in Oklahoma, and should we be annexed as one state there is no precedent established that the new state should part from any of the laws that now govern the territory. All that the colored people ask is equal and like accommodations, and the majority of them are as much opposed to mixed schools as the factious editor of the Democrat, who came from Ohio where there are mixed schools, and where the democrats are in favor of it, and talk and vote that way because they have a negro following. We don't believe in crossing a bridge until you get to it, and we have not got to the bridge named mixed schools as yet, and hence there is nothing to be gained by discussing the question. There are a few people in the democrat ilk who desire to create dissention and trouble between the two races, and have picked up this hoby to do the work. The colored people of the territory hope that the sensible people will not be mis-lead by the damn fools, and that no attention will be paid these trouble breeders, and that we can all join hands to ask the government for more schools down here; and we can be a unit on the pleasure that each and every race herds to itself.

There has been recently organized Estate & Investment Co., of which in Muskogee the Afro-American Real Hon. J. W. F. Sawyer is president; Prof. F. J. Gordon, vice president; L. F. Fue, treasurer; H. R. Pearson, general manager; and W. H. Twine, secretary.

This company will engage in the buying and selling of real estate in Muskogee, and in the Creek nation, and in the Indian Territory. The stock holders of the company are men of well known business ability; some of them at the present time are engaged in business in Oklahoma and Missouri and Indian Territory. For the present their place of business will be at 211 South Second street, Muskogee, Ind. Ter.

It is reported that the president of the Baptist college and the coal driver had a mix up on Tuesday evening—a regular sparing match, in which the president of the college came out second best, and the coal driver after administering his clubbing to the president, took leg-ball, and they say he made time equal to that of the Katy Flyer.

Quite a number of citizens have signed a call for a meeting of the republican club on the 29th inst. And right on the heels of this come the official call of the president, which is published in this issue. It seems that there are a great many hands being played for the big plum known as the postmastership, and may the best man win.

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OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE COMMERCIAL NA'TN'L BANK

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Muskogee Indian Territory.

At close of business Friday, January 22, 1904.

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Loans and Discounts	\$410,936.13	Capital	\$200,000.00
Overdrafts (Cotton)	23,198.69	Surplus and Profit	16,978.26
Bonds and Premiums	106,080.49	Circulation	50,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures	5,046.26	Deposits	345,142.28
Cash and Exchange	68,125.35	Reserved for Taxes	1,266.38
	\$613,886.92		\$613,887.92

The above statement is correct.

D. N. FINK, Cashier.

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