

# BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

VOLUME IV.

GREAT BEND, KANSAS, THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1887.

NUMBER 9.

The normal and the depot remain to be heard from. Everything else is moving along all right.

"HONOR to whom honor is due." The street railway company have worked with a vigor that entitles them to great credit.

The Topeka Democrat speaks of the occupation tax as something odious to the people of that city. Such we believe is the way an occupation tax is regarded wherever the people have tried it. It is an unjust system and is opposed to the genius of free institutions.

A STRIKE has been created in railroad circles by the Frisco road granting half fare rates to the annual convention of the Dunkards, at Ottawa, Kan. It is hard to surmise what will be the outcome of this action on the part of the Frisco, but it is believed that it will be the starting of another war on rates.

The Walnut City and the LaCrosse papers are filed with statements respecting the county seat. The matter is growing warmer each day and there is a prospect of serious trouble ahead. At this distance it is impossible to judge who is in the right and who in the wrong. But for the good of the whole county and both cities, we hope to hear of an amicable settlement.

The street croaker is doing more harm to Barton county than all the chinch bugs, or dry or wet weather combined. The GRAPHIC will head a subscription list to raise a purse in order that the few specimens of this "varmint" may be hauled all over the state and shown the onward march of progress that is never ceasing, but is sweeping on and on in a mighty tidal wave.

STRIKES and rumors of strikes are disturbing the old world. This time Belgium is the unfortunate country in which the working classes have decided that their burdens are greater than they can bear. We have never had much sympathy with riotous strikes on this side of the waters, but leave them where the laborer receives only a pittance for his services, we must admit that the circumstances are somewhat changed.

ONE of these days the Missouri Pacific will decide to go south from Great Bend. It is only a question of time when that road must move out in that direction in order to protect its interests in the valley. When this occurs Great Bend may rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for it will signify a great deal to us. It will be the crowning act which is to make this the imperial city of Central Kansas.

We are still anxious to see the natural gas project pushed forward. In case we strike gas, there could be no greater boom for Great Bend than the one of cheap fuel which the finding of natural gas would give us. For heating purposes, 12,000 feet of gas are equal to one ton of the best bituminous coal. A first rate well may yield 10,000,000 feet of gas per day, which would be equal to 938 tons of coal. One well is supposed to draw from a territory of but eight acres.

SOME objection is being raised to the opening of a drive through the park by men doing business on the north and south sides of the square, they claiming that such a driveway would serve to draw the trade from their locations. We cannot see that such would be the result. The driveway will be more for the benefit of the citizens of the city, and as a means of ornamentation, more than for the convenience of the country trade.

The public prints announce that the dreaded Asiatic cholera has crossed the water and is traveling northward. Of course Kansas feels secure but the fact is every precaution ought to be taken to guard against the plague. It is possible that it may travel this way, and our only security lies in a rigid adherence to our sanitary regulations. There are scents and smells in some of our alleys to-day which are calculated to make one believe that we have an Augean stable in our midst.

We observe that most of the articles touching Kansas, which appeared in the Tribune two weeks ago, are being largely copied by the papers throughout the state. This is the best evidence that that issue of the Tribune is being well received, and will be of great benefit to the county. Every business man in town should call and get a few copies to send to eastern friends.—Tribune.

OUR observation was that most of the articles which appeared in the Tribune two weeks ago were "copied" the week before they appeared in that journal.

MARSH Murdock has visited Lyons recently and has written the Eagle an article respecting his trip. But the way the Lyons papers are blowing about the letter of the redoubtable Murdock makes Sterling quiver with rage.

NEWTON, not to be outdone by Hutchinson, comes forward with the modest claim of 11,000 inhabitants. If this thing goes on much longer Great Bend will have to change her figures and make it an even 8,000.

ONE of the neatest papers published in all the Arkansas Valley is the La Crosse Democrat, J. M. Tracy formerly of this place is editor. Mr. Tracy's friends here will be glad to know that he is meeting with such success in journalism.

THE Salvation army is moving this way. Great Bend may look for a visit from these doubtful hosts. While we do not believe in their theory of "spreading the glad tidings" we believe they should receive the protection of the law so long as they keep within the bounds of a reasonable advocacy of their cause or belief.

FRIDAY morning at 3 o'clock Capt. W. S. White, for many years editor of the Beacon, died in Wichita. He was married to his betrothed the hour before he died. All who read the able editorials in the Beacon for years will agree with us that Kansas journalism, in the death of Capt. White, loses one of its shining lights.

ALL booms must have a sure and firm foundation to start with, if they prove lasting. Such a foundation we have in the faith of our people who put their money into solid business blocks like the Fair building, the two large hotels, the water works, and street railway, all of which are now being pushed to completion. Keep on doing these things, and let it be known what you are doing, and you will inspire the confidence of others in our boom.

THE Larned Chronoscope says that Ingalls is president of the United States. The fact is Senator Ingalls is president of the United States senate, pro tempore, but he is not vice president. And if President Cleveland should become ineligible to his present office, Secretary Bayard, and not Senator Ingalls would become our president. Should Bayard become ineligible, then Secretary Fairchild would become our president, and so on until the entire cabinet in the order provided by the presidential succession bill, is exhausted.

WHEN the shades of night are falling and the stars above are glowing; like the June-bugs 'round a parlor lamp their foolish antics showing, the Great Bend lads around their flames are buzzing and are beauning, while the papas' and the mamas' wink with quizzing looks and knowing. Thus it was through all the ages, and will be through ages coming; the bewitching hours of evening will be burdened with the humming of the June-bugs and the lovers, with the papas' and the mamas' in a minor cadence thrumming, in an undertone, conjectures of what will be the outcome of all this monkey business.

The Capital quotes Major Sims, secretary of the state board of agriculture, is saying that reports received from various parts of the state lead him to believe that the wheat crop has been damaged to some extent, because the rain did not come in time; however, there have been good rains all over the state recently, and he thinks the outlook for wheat is now very good. He says that oats are heading out short and will not yield a full crop. The damage by chinch bugs has not been very serious so far; the recent rains did much to kill them off.—Kansas Farmer.

A Prayer for the Reporter. The story is told of Chaplain Allison, of the Minnesota Legislature, that he prayed one morning: "And now, dear Lord, bless the reporter, whose nimble pens catch our every word almost before it is uttered. Like thyself, they are omnipresent, and almost omnipotent. If we take the morning and fly to the uttermost parts of the earth, they are there. They meet us in the jungles of Africa, they waylay us in the solitary canyons of Colorado, and when at length we find the latitude of the magnetic pole, behind they are there. May their light and goodness be equal to their power, and in the general assembly of heaven, let no reporter be excluded."—Mentor.

## THE WHOLE FAMILY BUSY.

"How are your crops?" the stranger cried.  
The stranger with a sneer,  
To the mild inquiry replied:  
"Thar haint no crops this year;  
"I haint ther time ter make a halt—  
Down in the turnip field  
I'm boring, hopin' to find salt,  
An' reckon on a yield.  
"An' over in the meeder now,  
A-workin' in good style,  
You'll find the boy, an' ee, I vow,  
Is certain ter strike ile.  
"He's pegged away, down on the slope,  
An' wade a orful hole;  
An' ther old woman, she's in hope  
Ter strike er vein o' coal.  
"Whar she's a digging fur'er life  
Out thar behind the barn,  
I tell yer thar's a whoopin' strife  
Among us—It's no yarn.  
"I haven't hardly time, I swear,  
Ter cut ther k'ndlin' wood;  
So thar won't be no crops this year,  
Cos nin'n'a pays no good!"  
—Commonwealth.

THE Pratt Register comes to our table this week an eight column, all home-print, and is an honor to its publishers and its town.

Georgia boasts of three stingy men. One of them will not drink as much as he wants, unless it be from another man's well; the second requires his family to write a "small hand" to save ink, and the third stops his clock at night to save wear and tear on the machinery.—Ex.

## PAWNEE ROCK ITEMS.

Oscar Graybill has been transferred from Great Bend to Garfield as night operator.

Mrs. Will Legg, Mrs. J. Welch, Mrs. Mel. Champion and son Ernie, of Great Bend, visited with ye editor over Sunday.

Mr. Byram brought into our sanctum Wednesday a few samples of the wheat growing on his place, and says he has forty acres just like it. The wheat stands three feet high and is heading out nicely. It will make a good crop.

David Jones, who lives eight miles southeast, had an arm broken Sunday afternoon by a horse falling on him. Dr. Daniels went out and set the injured member and he is doing well, although in a person of his age, an injury of this kind is very slow in improvement.

Mr. Miller, of Lincoln township, was in town Tuesday. He reports that during the thunder storm of Monday, J. Dahm, living in his neighborhood, lost three horses and a colt from lightning. The stable in which they were confined was burned to the ground.  
—Pawnee Rock Leader.

## Texas Law.

I met an old judge the other day who has been here since 1852. He remembers the time when the alcalde had to approve of all the sentences for offenses, and tells of one occasion when they hanged a man and then submitted their action to the alcalde for his approval. He is full of stories of the days when the code was a mixed one, and he relates how a man was tried for selling a horse which had been entrusted to keep. The lawyer against him was a Texan. "Look here," said he, "the Texas law's just as good the New York law. Let us punish this man according to Texan law."

Anything for a change. The jury found the prisoner guilty by Texan law. The charge had been simple breach of trust, but the Texan law made it horse-stealing, and horse-stealing there was punishable by hanging. Nothing remained for the Judge but to sentence the man to be hanged. They settled it afterward by making the prisoner pay the value of the horse. But it was a narrow escape.—San Francisco Chronicle.

## The Hot End of a Joke.

Here is a good story told of Roddy's cavalry: One day the troopers were about to go into the fight dismounted, leaving every fourth man to hold the horses. The men were all drawn up to count from the left to the right. Of course every fourth man felt jolly, and this is the way the count ran:

"One."  
"Two."  
"Three."  
"Bully!"  
Gen. Roddy heard each fourth man along the line call out "bully." His face flushed. When all had called off, he said:  
"Numbers one, two, and bully will go into the fight as dismounted cavalry. Number three will hold the horses."  
There were a good many sick "bullies" that day.

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