

BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

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The Weather Man Has Apparently Decided Central and Western Kansas Shall be Blessed With a Bumper Crop this Season

THE NEW DEPOT OPENED.

The City's Patience Rewarded by the Santa Fe People.

After years of waiting, praying and hoping, the people of this section have been rewarded by the Santa Fe railway company by the erection of a fine passenger station which was formally opened to the public on St. Patrick's day, with a function second to none on occasions of this kind. For several years the citizens have been importuning the company for a modern structure, that would be a credit to the city, to the amount of business done by the company in this territory, and one that would be adequate to handle that business, and at least we have been rewarded. All around us new depots have been erected, and it seemed at times as if there never would come a time for Great Bend. But, evidently we have profited by the delay, for the structure we have received, eclipses any of those who slipped in ahead of us.

Some months ago we gave a description of the new building, and that description has been carried out to the letter.

The architecture is "Mission" and the graceful arches and ornamentation make the structure a real delight to look upon. The interior arrangements are perfect as experience could design, for convenience and comfort. The waiting rooms are large, light, airy and at one end of the building is a concrete roofed porch which will be a children's play room and a rest room in the warm weather times.

The formal opening was attended by a large number of the members of the Southwest Kansas Editorial Association, a number of the officials of the road, and a very large number of citizens of our city. A banquet, one of the best that we have ever attended, was served in the two waiting rooms. The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian church served the banquet. It was carried out as well as if Ford Harvey's people had been doing it. There was a plenty of good things to eat, prepared as only Great Bend ladies know how served with promptness, neatness, and in a manner thru-out to warrant the many fine tributes that were paid to the ladies. They deserve the strongest words of praise that can be given them, while the hungry guests were disposing of the good things to eat, an orchestra enlivened the occasion with excellent music.

After the banquet one of the waiting rooms was cleared and all the guests were assembled therein to listen to a few toasts which were well responded to. The program was as follows:

Toastmaster—D. A. Banta.
Address of Welcome—Mayor O. W. Dawson.
Responses—Superintendent H. A. Tice, for the Santa Fe; R.H.

Senator G. L. Chapman.

Like a clap of thunder out of a clear sky, came the announcement early Monday morning that Senator G. L. Chapman, of this city had passed away at a sanitarium in Kansas City, where he had gone for treatment. Although in ill health for some months, not even his family was aware that his condition was as serious as it was. The shock threw a mantle of gloom over the entire community.

General Chapman came to this county with his parents in 1872, being at that time three years of age. The family settled on a piece of land in Buffalo township now owned by Robert McMullen. Here they lived until the Senator's father became an official, being Probate Judge, for many years editor of the Register, later Senator, and the receiver of the land office. General went to school, worked in the printing office, in the post office, later went on the road as a postal clerk, and soon after the organization of the First National Bank, of which his father was a director, he was connected with the institution as a collector. Through successive steps he worked his way up from that position to the presidency of the institution, which position he has been occupying for some years, and in which he has built up the bank to be one of the strongest and best banks in central Kansas. He was always interested in political affairs, and though frequently mentioned for office, steadfastly declined political honors until the campaign of 1894, when he became the nominee of the Republican party for state senator, winning the election by a very large vote. He was nominated and elected to succeed himself, in 1908 after a hard fight, brought about by the two factions in the Republican party. The senator was a very pronounced man in his views, and in adhering to the principles of Republicanism as he understood, he was aligned with what is known as the standpat element in politics.

Senator Chapman was a success in life. Starting in a new country, the son of poor parents, and with a limited education, he worked his way to the top, and held a place in the minds and hearts of his fellow citizens second to none. He was a success as a banker. He was a willing servant of the desires of his senatorial district as a member of the legislature, serving his people as he understood their desires and their needs. He was very popular with his fellow members, also with the members of the house. Genuine regret was expressed by the senators when at the beginning of the last session the announcement was made that he would be unable to attend, and scarcely a day passed but what the writer was asked concerning his condition. Many letters and telegrams of sympathy have been received from members of the senate and prominent men throughout the state, which testify as to his standing. As a citizen of this community he was always alert to the needs of the city and the desires of the people. He was ready at all times to assist in pushing any movement for the betterment of conditions here. He was active in several of our organizations, and an active member of the congregational church. His home life was above reproach. His family was always uppermost in his thoughts, and through all his busy career he never for an instant neglected them. They occupied a beautiful home, which he was always trying to make more so by his labors and his means. He lacked but a few days of being 43 years of age. He is survived by a widow, a son, Lawrence, and a daughter Vera. Also a mother, sister, and two brothers. The body arrived from Kansas City on Monday evening. The funeral services were held at the Congregational church, on Thursday afternoon, and were conducted by Rev. Sutherland of Mason City, Iowa, for many years the pastor of the church, assisted by the local pastor, Rev. Brehme. The funeral was one of the largest ever held in the city, and was attended by many out of town people, including a committee of the Senate composed of Senator Quincy of Saline, Carey of Reno, and Stewart of Sedgwick, Potter of Marion and Huffman of Cherokee. Also former Lieut. Gov. Fitzgerald, Congressman Madison and C. M. Beeson, of Dodge City, Walter A. Johnson, Secretary of the Senate and Earl Akers, chief clerk of the House. The floral decorations were profuse.

We cannot resist the temptation to say something of a personal nature. For years the senator's father and the writer's father were very close friends, personally as well as politically. As the years went by and we grew up, we also became friends, and until the day of his death that friendship never was broken. We were young men together in this city, we worked together in many matters, we had close business relations, and in only one particular were we not agreed, that was politics. However, this was only insofar as it referred to partisan affairs. We served in the legislative session of 1909 together, and worked together as closely as two men could. As in our younger days we went to attend social functions together, and work in other lines, so we did at Topeka. In his death we lose a boyhood friend, a close associate, a friend in business, and one of the boys it has been our fortune to be with.

In his death humanity loses a friend, the state an ardent champion, his community a worker, and the family a loyal and loving head. His death at the prime of his life, at the zenith of his career, casts a tinge of sadness over all. It causes us to again marvel at the works of the Creator. "Whose will, not our, be done." As we lay the body away in its last resting place, we do not forget General, but his words, his deeds, his kindly disposition will live in the memory of our people so long as any of us are left to remember.

Will Take a Vacation.
Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Miller, expect to leave in about ten days for an extended trip, combining business with pleasure, on the Pacific coast. Mr. Miller owns a small tract of land in the famous fruit country in Oregon, Lake Co. which he will go to inspect. They will visit Frisco, Portland, and other coast cities, intending to remain until they get tired of sight seeing. Mr. Miller, who for years has been conducting the smoke shop in this city, and making several excellent brands of cigars rarely takes a vacation, but intends to make up for it this season. We will wager that he will not remain away as long as he now intends to, simply because he is too active and will want to get back in the harness. Their many friends wish Mr. and Mrs. Miller a pleasant trip.

John Pearson was down from Herington Friday.

Echoes of the Legislature.

Although the average constituent is always finding a great deal of fault with the work of the legislature as a body, yet this condition does not seem to exist this time to the extent that it has at times in the past. And it should not. The members of the legislature on the whole are a body. They are compelled to pass upon a great mass of stuff so much that there is not the time to make a reasonable investigation of all bills. The only way a member can do is to set his mind upon some particular line of legislation, watch it and study it, and thus be prepared to vote intelligently, leaving to some other member the privilege of doing the same on some other line and then being advised by him what to do.

The question of taxation is one of the meanest things a legislature has to deal with. The members, and especially the members of the committees on this subject, are between two fires constantly. The committee on assessment and taxation is one of the hardest in the union to serve. There are so many conflicting interests. They are supposed to devise laws which will be equitable, which will raise the revenue, and yet constantly and rightly, censure the kick of high taxes. Especially has this been true since the passage of the new tax law.

Some legislation demanded by the farmers in this line was passed by the house, but stopped in the senate. Notably the bill abolishing the office of county assessor and the board of review altogether. This bill, which passed the house by a good vote, was never reported back by the committee in the senate, hence we have the county assessor with us, also the board of review, but in a modified form. An effort was made to pass a bill providing for the valuation of real estate every four years, but this failed, as did also an amendment to the constitution providing for a reclassification of property.

In the house the chairman of the committee was Mr. Keene of Bourbon, an attorney, a first term, an administration leader, and one of the real leaders of the house. Mr. Keene is a very strong man and labored hard and conscientiously on tax legislation. He developed into an excellent member, and returned to his constituents with their praise sounding in his ear, and a boom for governor on his hands. Mr. Keene is big enough for governor, and made many friends during the session.

While it did not appear that the Legislature was paying much attention to the subject of taxation—except to inheritance taxes—a number of laws were enacted affecting the existing laws. Several important changes were made in the old laws which, in the opinion of the State tax commission will greatly improve the administration of the general property tax law in vogue in Kansas. They will also do much toward enabling a nearer approach to the equal distribution of the tax burden.

Senate bill No. 354, which became a law early in the session, corrects a serious defect in the old law by now permitting districts which were too large to be assessed by one deputy assessor within the time required by law to be subdivided into two or more districts and deputy assessors appointed in each of the districts so created. The law makes provision also for the appointment of deputy assessors to fill vacancies, and in many other ways will undoubtedly prove to be a beneficial statute.

House bill No. 520 is a revision of article twelve of the code of assessment and taxation relating solely to the assessment of real estate. One of the most important features is section four of the bill, which provides how real estate taken into cities shall be assessed. There has been no legislation heretofore upon this subject, and matters of assessment of that kind have proceeded haphazard. Under this law real estate taken into a city between the first days of March

The Editorial Meeting.

The Republican Editorial Association for the Seventh and 8th Congressional districts held their semi-annual meeting in this city last Friday. In the absence of Walter Johnson of Lyons, president of the association, Ralph Faxon presided. About twenty of the members were present, and we acknowledge the courtesy extended to us of attending the meeting, which was not a partisan one. At noon the Tribune force entertained the visitors and a few friends at an excellent luncheon at the Saddlerock. After the meeting in the afternoon the visitors were shown around the town and part of the neighboring territory by several of our enterprising citizens who used their autos for that purpose. In the evening they were the guests of the Business Men at the Santa Fe dedication banquet.

Items of interest to the profession were discussed, and also the Canadian reciprocity. All present but two, Faxon and Plouffe, favored reciprocity, and the argument indulged in was worth listening to. We hope sometime in the future to have the pleasure of entertaining the bunch again.

Greenwood-Shepard.

Clarendon Greenwood, a young man connected with the Grover Produce Co., and Miss Trinnie Shepard, for a long time one of the efficient employees of the Telephone Company, were quietly married Saturday evening at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Wilbur Kepple. Mr. Greenwood has been in our city for about a year, and by his gentlemanly conduct and attention to business has made many friends. The bride has long been one of the standbys of the telephone company. She is a deservedly popular young lady. The Democrat extends congratulations.

and May of any year is to be assessed by the proper officers and be subject to the city taxes for that year, but if such real estate is taken into the city after May first the real estate is not to be assessed that year for the purpose of subjecting it to city taxes, but the values placed during the preceding year are to be divided pro rata among the lots or tracts of land so included within the boundaries of the city. This law also provides an important method for handling the real estate assessment whereby it is expected that real estate will be classified and the proper values for each class extended, thereby equalizing the assessment of real estate according to its varied characteristics. The law also requires a separate assessment of real estate and the improvements thereon, although both values are to be included in one amount on the assessment and tax rolls. This allows statistical information as to the total value of the real estate in the state and of the total value of improvements in the state which has never before been ascertainable.

Senate bill No. 378 is an important measure, and should do much toward the equalization of the assessment of real estate. It amends the old law in relation to boards of review. The old law in relation to boards of review provided for boards to sit every year in each taxing district, but the law was without the necessary provisions to make the work of the boards effective, and as a result the work of the boards during the first year of their existence was very unsatisfactory, in fact accomplished little, and was therefore a cause of needless expense. The new law provides for boards of review only in real estate assessment years, and the work of the boards is confined solely to the equalization of real estate in their respective taxing districts. The boards are to meet in each township and city at the time named in the statute after having given due and proper notice of the time and place of meeting, so that owners of real estate may appear before the board in relation to their assessment, the owners having been previously notified by postal card from the

Charged with Embezzlement.

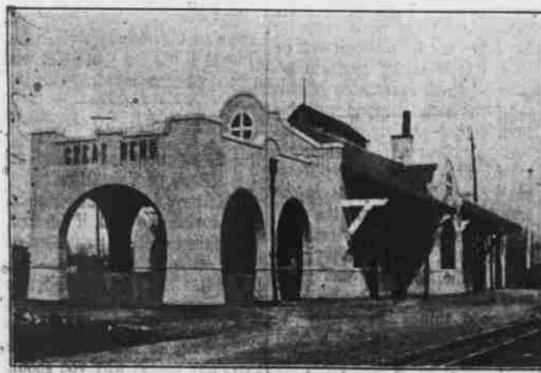
Hale Cowley, who for almost a year past has been selling insurance in this county, was arrested Saturday afternoon charged with embezzlement, the warrant having been sworn out by Oscar Reigel of the south side. Cowley was in the early days a settler here. He returned about a year ago, purchased some property in the north part of town and began building a house. He was writing insurance and doing a little loan business on the side. It seems that he procured a loan for the Reigel's and also procured from them at the same time, before the money was turned over, an order to get the money, only a part of which he has turned to Mr. Reigel. The result, he stands charged with embezzlement. Mr. Cowley has been ill for some time, and was at the hospital, in charge of an officer until Monday evening, when an examination by physicians revealed the fact that he was not as ill as he sought to make out, and was then placed in the county jail.

Kicked in the Jaw.

Bert Schneck found out Sunday morning that it does not pay to fool with a horse, if the animal is an old one. The family have one somewhere over twenty-years of age, that the boys have been doing with about as they pleased. Sunday Bert and one of Andy Ruble's boys thought they would have a little fun riding the old nag, when Mr. Nag objected, throwing Bert, and in order to convince him that he was not to be monkeyed with, old Dobbin kicked Bert in the jaw before he had time to get away, breaking it up a little. Result, Bert is staying close in, and Dobbin is not being molested.

county assessor of the amount of their real estate assessments respectively. The boards have original and final jurisdiction as to the equalization in their respective districts. Under the old law the county board of equalization had this duty, but experience shows that it was seldom discharged. After the work of the boards of review is completed, tax payers may individually appeal to the county board if they have been aggrieved, and the county board has the power to adjust grievances in such cases. The power remains with the county board of equalizing land values among the taxing districts, but not among the individuals of the taxing districts. The county board also is the sole equalizer of personal property both among individuals and among the taxing districts. This is an important statute, and is in line with the most advanced thought upon the subject of real estate assessment. It is designed to, and doubtless will, distribute the tax burdens more equally upon the basis of actual value than has ever before been possible.

House bill No. 634 is also an important statute. It provides a new plan for the assessment of the interests of companies which own cars not owned by the railroad companies that are operated over the lines of railway in the state. The old law was imperfect of doubtful interpretation, and caused much confusion and dispute. Aside from the changes in the method of assessment, the taxes which will be levied upon the property of the Pullman Car company, will be paid directly into the state treasury. Heretofore the values assessed against this company have been distributed to the taxing districts through which Pullman cars are operated, the amounts so falling to any particular taxing district being almost inconsiderable. The new plan promises to be a great improvement in the assessment of this kind of property. We hope from time to time to find space for other articles along the line of legislation, giving our readers what, owing to the limit of time, we were unable to give while in Topeka.



THE NEW SANTA FE DEPOT

Faxon, for the newspaper men.
Great Bend, past, present and future—Rev. Westwood.
The Press and the Southwest—W. Y. Morgan, of Hutchinson.
The Santa Fe's Relations—Frank Jarrell of the Santa Fe.
"A Graduate of the Baggage Room"—W. P. Feder, of Great Bend.
Future Relations of the Santa Fe and the Public—Judge Osmond and J. M. Connell, General Passenger Agent of the Santa Fe.
Taken all in all, the affair was a success from every point of view, and the Santa Fe as well

as the citizens of Great Bend are to be congratulated on its culmination.
The depot was actually used for the first time on Monday evening of this week.
D. T. Dennis was up from Hutchinson this week. He has a large slice of territory in this section of the state in which he is selling a new acetylene light.
The Moses Bros. Mill & Elevator are beginning the erection of a brick smoke stack one hundred feet high. Charlie Morrison has the contract.