

Daily Eagle

M. M. MURDOCK, Editor. SUNDAY MORNING, DEC. 26, 1886.

A QUARTER OF A MILLION. The attention of our esteemed contemporary, the Kansas City Times, is called to the total of the real estate transfers in Wichita, the day before Christmas. The boys know that the chances for big deals would be slim for yesterday so dipped in on their nerve to the tune of nearly three hundred thousand dollars.

WEATHER PROPHECIES. The predicted storm, blizzard and cold wave which the department fixed up for Friday failed to materialize in the Happy Valley, as have all the other predictions so far this fall. "Kicking Bird" has been the only one as yet who has kept his predictions down to the delightful level of the calm autumnal sunshine which has so persistently bathed our valley with its benign influence since the close of the heated term.

CURTIS AND THE PRESIDENT. The magwumps are as much troubled in determining what to do with President Cleveland, as that gentleman is in deciding what disposition ought to be made of them. "The president's remarks on reform of the civil service are in accordance with his known convictions." That is the language of Mr. George William Curtis, in Harper's Weekly. The same gentleman, in the same issue of the same paper, says, referring to the president's conduct in the Benton case: "But the reinstatement of Mr. Benton and the refusal to reinstate Mr. Stone are in accord with no principle, and are flagrantly inconsistent with the distinct declaration of the president in the league letter. The letter in the case of Mr. Stone is in effect, although not in intention, an abandonment of the principle of reform, and asserts what is practically an impossible distinction between permissible and non-permissible campaign speeches by such officers."

The only fair and practicable rule for office holders during their term of office is "the quiet and unobtrusive exercise of individual rights." This rule the president has abrogated by the reinstatement of Mr. Benton, which is a reversal of the policy of the reform, as is shown conclusively by the delight of Republicans, who point to it as proof either of executive weakness or falsity, and by the shouts of Democratic enemies of the administration, hailing what they declare to be the sign of a surrender to the "spoils bosses" of their party. The confidence of reformers is necessarily shaken, not in the president's convictions or purpose, but in his judgment. It is a step which is in every way unfortunate, for while it does not really conciliate his Democratic enemies, it does undoubtedly disturb and caitil his independent friends.

Hawkins Taylor, at one time imported into Kansas as a professional politician along with a blowhard named King and a saloon keeper whose name has slipped our memory, but all of whom together with General Blunt, Ike Kallcock et al, in connection with the Jim Lane and Tom Carney fight caused Rome to howl, is now writing reminiscences of his days in Kansas from Washington, for the Commonwealth. Hawkins is a failure as a historian as he was a failure as a politician.

Mr. Dilday, of the Eagle, was here last week in the interest of that great paper. We did not learn what success he met with but if there is any man, or paper, that Kiowa ought to solidly and forever tie to that man is Marsa Murdock, that paper the Eagle, as both have championed our cause from the day the town was platted. It is the only great metropolitan daily that reaches us on the day of publication. It is a big feather in the cap of Wichita, and an honor to the state.—Kiowa Journal.

Chicago Inter Ocean: A school of journalism? Hum, yes. But by the midnight fire and the murder in the slums; beside the police justice; in the divorce courts; with the ruminant politicians and at the ball of my lady; between the wheels of trade and amid the roar of a thousand industries, wherever man is at his best and worst, where he worships God and courts the devil, there is journalism's kindergarten, there you will learn its alphabet. For what is journalism? The lesson of tomorrow in the story of today.

THE WICHITA AND TRINIDAD. From the Harper Daily Sentinel. We are authorized to state that the Wichita & Trinidad railroad company has adopted the Harper route as surveyed, it being only 1,700 rods further than by the first route surveyed, and a much easier grade, being only twenty-eight feet to the mile, while the other is forty-five feet. Bonds will be asked and an election probably called the latter part of next month. These facts come from one of the officers of the local company, and are, we think, reliable.

The W. & T. is no doubt a continuation of one of the trunk lines running into Wichita, which one is a secret likely to be kept inviolate by those who are on the inside of the scheme until the road is built, and then the public will perhaps find out from the brand on the rolling stock. The Medicine Lodge Index seems to be thoroughly convinced that it is not the "Rock Island," as the editor had an interview with Mr. Lowe, who said: "We have nothing to do with it," all of which may be true as gospel, yet if the "Rock Island" is a factor in the scheme and it has an object in view in keeping the matter secret, it is very doubtful whether all the railroad committees in southern Kansas could get Mr. Lowe to expose what is certainly the private business of his company. At any rate the W. & T. R. R. is the paper railroad. Stakes have been driven and a route adopted. The company is now engaged in setting up the pins for next summer's campaign. Dirt will commence to fly before April 1st and our prediction,

Written for the Eagle. THEY ALSO SERVE." TO H. "Gray days," the poet sings, in mournful rhyme, Scarce caring, doubtless, who that rhyme should see; Or, that it would along the shore of time, Be floated down until it came to me, And settled in my heart, arousing there, The past with all its agony of doubt, Its dumb entreaty and its silent prayer. No other days save gray, e'er compassed me about. The dark and beeting clouds still float along, Which hide the sunshine, as in days of old. And dull gray mists, e'en yet are settling down, Across the horizon, gloomy, chill and cold. Blinded the light which God said should be about. Around the pathway of the poorest child. The blinding snows still drift athwart my path, And make the way a trackless, barren wild; Dull skies, gray mists, as far as eye can see.— Yet back I cannot turn, for troubles root, Like vast, and ever towering mountains bare, Which blanch my cheeks and fright the rest— less soul! I only can stand still and raise my eyes, Despite of blinding tears and wintry spray. To where I see through gray and dismal skies, The hand which beckons to the heavenly way. I wait content, the time to enter in, To that bright land beyond the golden gate; For well I know, the blessed father sees, "They also serve, who only stand and wait." ARRIVA HOMERON. The Walnuts, Dec., 1886.

SEND HIM A REVIEW. To the Editor of the Eagle. COVINGTON, Ky., Dec. 22, 1886.

In your paper of November 26 you copy a letter of Daniel Crawford, to the Wells-ville (O.) Review, in which he says that you will send the Illustrated Review of Wichita to any one who desires it. Now I have been in Wichita myself and like it very much indeed; have made some little investments in that particular portion of the "whole earth," and am one of those, who like yourself, believes that the future of Wichita is almost beyond any reasonable present calculation. And on account of my knowledge of the place I am often appealed to for information. I have to answer all sorts of questions; some propounded by those who got their geographical education long before Wichita was even dreamed of by the map makers. Only this morning, in conversation with a man who is talking very strongly of selling his property here and going to Wichita, amongst other questions, he asked me if there were any brick buildings there.

This goes to show that a great many persons in the east have the idea that Wichita is merely an overgrown trading post, composed principally of tents and log huts, with here and there a more pretentious building which has been shipped from the east in knock down shape and set up after it got there. Now if you will send me the Review, and such other papers or statistics as you may have which will be useful in showing up Wichita as it is, I think I could use it to considerable advantage to Wichita, as there are quite a number here who are thinking seriously of following the Covingtonians who have already located in your city. Very respectfully, etc., THOMAS REED, Jr., No. 20 East Sixth Street, Covington, Kentucky.

The Capital seems to lack faith in Wichita's gas. Our brother might change his mind were Topeka lighted with the same quality for a brief space. Natural gas no doubt serves many useful purposes, but as an illuminator the Eagle has found that of its own manufacture very much superior.

NATURAL GAS. Wichita has a natural gas company which is engaged in boring for gas at several places near the city, with, it is said, good prospects of striking a strong flow of gas. Wichita has for a long time supported one of the grandest gas companies on the western hemisphere, and one that has done more for its supporters and the city of Wichita than any hundred or even a thousand men within the city limits. This company did not bore into the earth for gas, but more wisely bore into the hearts and brains of the enterprising, intelligent men of the east until they could not withstand the pressure longer; the result of the company's labor is too well known by the thousands of owners of dirt in the happy valley today. Wichita has more wise, prudent gas companies than any city in the state.—Sedgwick Pantagraph.

WICHITA COUNTY SEAT. T. B. Gerow, the census taker of Wichita county, was in the city yesterday prepared to make his report to Governor Martin. By a canvass made by Mr. Gerow, Leoti City was elected the county seat by the people of the county over its competitor, Coronado. Mr. S. W. McCall and Mr. H. W. Jenness, of Leoti, were in the city yesterday awaiting the action which Governor Martin will take upon the report of Mr. Gerow. As a matter of course, the governor will very shortly designate Leoti the temporary county seat and appoint temporary county officers.—Commonwealth.

ABOUT LOW TAXES. From the Lawrence Journal. The people who go up to the court house and find their taxes about half as high as last year, come away greatly pleased. They do not inquire the reason of the reduction. They do not concern themselves whether the assessment is too high or too low. All they know is, that just now, when coal bins and Christmas stockings are to be filled, and there seems to be two places for every dollar, the tax gatherer lets up on them, and takes only half the amount he did last year. It is a new sensation.

We are not backward about setting forth the advantages of our state and city; we talk about soil and climate, and railroad facilities and boom, but who ever sets forth as the bright particular municipal glory, "low taxes." What real estate agent ever distributes a circular through the cars asking the attention of the world to the fact that "cheap lands" are supplemented by "low taxes"? Yet, what greater inducement could be held out?—Atchison Champion. We are glad to see our esteemed contemporary working up a boom for low taxes. It seems to us it would be a very popular movement. We can think of scarcely anything that would meet with such unanimous and hilarious approval. It would meet a long felt want. It is an opportunity to talk about a theme though somewhat figurative, still has a wonder full reality about it in two memorable days, December 20 and June 20. It is a good time to work up a boom for low taxes, furthermore and for the reason that the

people of Kansas are rushing rapidly into this theme of taxation. If anybody can conjure up a scheme whereby melodious music can be obtained from the festive cat gut without liquidating a reasonable compensation to the fiddler, perhaps people can keep on voting bonds with perfect impunity to all sorts of wild cat railroad schemes. In response to blanks sent out by the railroad companies it appears that nearly nine-tenths of the counties have voted bonds during the year, and some of them have bonded themselves during the year to the amount of \$400,000. According to the replies thus far, which includes about seventy-five counties, the total amount of county bonds voted the railroad during the year is \$5,253,000; township bonds, \$3,333,600 and city bonds \$716,500; the total amount issued and delivered during the year in the same counties was as follows: County bonds, \$282,000; township bonds, \$307,000; city bonds, \$122,900. These figures appear alarming to some people; it is very probable that the next legislature will discuss this question and amend the law which now permits a county that has been organized only a year or two, to load itself down with heavy bonded debt. Said one of the state officers to a Capital reporter: "The tendencies of some of the new counties to rush headlong into debt is alarming. Of course nearly all the bonds are not due for thirty years, but the counties which have voted from \$300,000 to \$400,000 in bonds in a single year to railroads do not realize how they are being crippled. It will bankrupt them. Of course the railroads will build up the state, but some of those counties do not seem to realize what a load they are taking upon themselves. Something must be done by the legislature to prevent this reckless voting of bonds."

The people in the eastern part of the state have gone through this craze of bond voting, and it came pretty near going through with them. But by reputation, carefulness, and the hardest of work and sacrifice we have pulled through. Our taxes now are very reasonable. Here in Lawrence they are very satisfactory. Down in southeastern Kansas, there is a prosperous young city, one of the best in the state, and next to Wichita, all things considered, it may be said to be about the best in southern Kansas. But the taxes there are almost insufferable. They are very nearly, we happened personally to know, double what they are in Lawrence, while rents are just about the same. High taxes offer poor encouragement to investors. The way to boom Lawrence is to keep taxes down. Run just as economical a local government as possible, and here is where all the expense comes in. Our state tax is light, for we have practically no state debts. Still we should be careful about our state expenses, or before we know it we will have a big state tax to pay and then the condition of the people will need to be commiserated surely. We have voted ten million dollars of bonds in Kansas this year. It is time to cry a halt. The legislature should put on the brakes and throw restriction around further bond voting.

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