

THE PALESTINE DAILY HERALD.

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W. M. AND H. V. HAMILTON, JR., - - - EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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Among freemen there should be no masters but justice and duty and love of right and fellowman.

PALESTINE, TEXAS, DECEMBER 31, 1903.

PAY YOUR POLL TAX.

From present indications many Anderson county people will not be able to vote next year.

Two days ago City Tax Collector Davis told the writer that only ninety-five poll tax receipts had been issued from his office up to that date. As the city voter must be provided with both city and county poll tax receipts before Feb. 1, this looks bad.

Next year is going to be a general election year, city, county, state and nation, and every man will want to vote.

No sensible man, patriotic, will quibble over this matter, but will pay his poll tax as soon as possible. The law provides that you can pay your poll tax now, and your other taxes later.

Every citizen should pay his poll tax.

PAY your poll tax; that is a duty you owe your city, county, state and nation. Pay now.

GET your New Year resolution ready, then turn over a new leaf and glue it down hard and fast.

ROOSEVELT needn't feel so anxious about Hanna's health. Sir will be there when the time comes.

The terrible holocaust reported from Chicago should be a warning to all people who frequent public places. If such a catastrophe is possible in a modern play house, just think of the danger in the hundreds of "fire traps" used for public gatherings.

More Text Book Talk

By way of explanation, in part, and to more fully express myself upon our trouble in securing our State adopted text books, I present another letter upon this subject.

The impression upon the minds of some that another letter published a few weeks ago was an attack on our local dealers or agents is a wrong idea. The different dealers referred to heretofore were only mentioned in connection with letters received from our various book concerns in which our local dealers were mentioned either as agents or dealers who handled our adopted books, and in the nominal mention of these dealers we tried to distinguish clearly the agent from the mere dealer.

If a book dealer does not desire to take an agency for a publishing house for a special book or books, we have no objections; but when the public pays its officials to establish a system of text books, and they transact their part as best they can by selecting the proper books, and after they have awarded publishing houses contracts to furnish books, which to them is a channel of wealth, and then when these companies, after contracts are closed fail to supply the people with books, is when the people begin to complain.

It was a slack piece of legislation that left it optional with the companies as to when to have the books on the market. Why have we failed in so many instances to secure our books? Failure upon the part of companies to get the book on the market answers the question.

Why, after the books arrived

here, were so many complaints made as having failed to make the exchange of the old for the new book? From the fact that there was no authorized agent established in Palestine.

The old law imposed a heavy fine upon teachers using any but the adopted book. Had, or if such a law existed or exists, many of the teachers would have been delayed from four to six weeks in beginning their schools, and by using the old ones for a short time we managed to tide the difficulty, while many children were compelled to lose from four to eight weeks for the want of books.

The companies will suffer less than the public by the delay; for behind them stands the great State of Texas waiting for the books, which none but them can furnish. The company loses the use of the price of the book for two months, while the little pupil—the future bulwark of our State—loses the two months of intellectual training for a generation. Should not such an administration of justice be sufficient to invalidate a contract of such gravity as that upon which our text book is based?

It is imperative on our part to tolerate such a state of affairs no longer. We have an attorney

who is paid from our purses, and who will, I believe, come at the call, to our relief. His address is C. K. Bell, Austin, Texas. When we seek to buy a book or present one, under good condition, for exchange, and fail in the first or refused in the second, it is our duty to advise him of the fact and bother no more over the matter. He will attend as punctually as business will permit to our complaint.

We can avail ourselves of much good in taking advantage of the present inconvenience by establishing a protest that will awaken these text book contractors up to the interest of the public's need.

It is the States' greatest prerogative, or should be, to hold the interest of our pupils in the common schools as paramount to all others, and not merely to enhance the wealth of these vast publishing houses. J. E. ROSE.

A Philippine Letter.

Part of a letter written to Mr. W. H. Jenkins by his son, in the Philippine Islands:

Well as to the people and their customs I will tell you something more about them. There was a party went from here and they tell some strange stories as to what they saw. The people in the interior are much behind those along the coast. There are a great many ducks, deer and other game out in the mountains.

While our men were out there came up a great storm and they went into the house of a Filipino out of the rain, and as it was meal time, he invited them to dine with him, and they had fried monkey for dinner, and so the boys had to decline.

There are a few wild negroes yet in the mountains and they know nothing of civilization at all. They wear a piece of cloth made of cocoanut fabric around their waists. These negroes live as dumb brutes; you can find in the high grass where they eat the ends of the grass, and at the sight of

an American they almost break their necks running, I know this to be true as we have two children here that was captured in the mountains when they were very small, and you can see a great difference in them and the other people here, these children's hair is as stiff as hog's bristle and stick out every hair to itself, the expression on their faces resembles that of crazy people, as near as I can express it, they look wild and are vicious.

I will now tell you something of the civilized class. If you happen around when they are eating, they will insist upon your eating with them, and if you refuse, they are highly offended; it is the same while they are drinking. They live chiefly on rice and fish. They are very generous hearted and will trust one another with anything, and when they buy anything on time, they will pay every time. They have a great time when one dies; if he has much money they will keep him out of the ground for 3 or 4 days. There is from 3 to 6 deaths among them every week, and this is considered a healthy place.

There was thirty-six deaths from cholera the first week we were here and the disease was considered played out, however there is none here now. Our command has lost only one man since we have been here.

The people here don't make any pretensions towards farming; for seven miles out all in the world they do is to fish and gather hemp, bananas and coconuts. There is big money in the hemp business if they would push it like Americans do their business.

Their domestic animals consist of ponies, about the size of a year old colt, a few razor back hogs and caraboa.

A hog is worth \$80.00 on foot and fresh meat 50c per pound in Manila.

They make the most of their clothing from Flax. You can see

Such things as the Chinese merchants can smuggle through, are cheap enough in the stores; other things are very high.

Their household goods, as a rule, consists of a matting they use for a bed, a lamp and forty children (more or less), and about as many dogs, and a few packages of cigarettes. They never have a day's ration ahead, so when they want to move, all they have to do is to call their dogs and pull out.

We are in sight of a volcano, and sometimes it gets boisterous and the people get in boats and take to the high seas.

The cotton grows on trees here, and there are two trees in sight of our quarters.

YOUR SON.

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