

THE NEWSBOY

VOL. VII.

BENTON, MISSOURI, SEPTEMBER 8, 1894.

NO. 33

A COAT OF WHITEWASH.

It was smeared on heavily by our County Court.

A Fixed Prosecuting Attorney.

He recommends that the Court Carefully Cover up its Tracks.

On Tuesday the County court inquired (for the first time, we believe) into the practice which has prevailed as to the payment into the county treasury of moneys over and above the clerk's salary and the actual outlay made by him for deputy hire. As members of the court had already expressed themselves outside to the effect that Mr. Leftwich's mode of procedure was legal, little expectation was entertained that the outcome of this so-called investigation would result otherwise than it did. The county court and Prosecuting Attorney Moore alike had heretofore taken Mr. Leftwich's interpretation of the statute, without inquiry as to its correctness, and it was not to be expected that they would stultify their former action.

The Prosecuting Attorney as the legal advisor of the court was the only man having any standing in court in behalf of the taxpayers. His opinion was that Mr. Leftwich was entitled to retain his salary of \$1,100 and as much for deputy hire as he could collect up to \$1,800, no matter whether or not he had paid it out. Judge Ballentine, speaking as a private citizen, held that the statute clearly meant that \$1,100 was the full compensation allowed the clerk, and that all money over that amount not actually paid out for deputy hire belonged to the county.

Mr. Leftwich had had an order prepared by his attorney which was designed to cover up the former proceedings (or non-proceedings) of the court in this matter and give him a clean indorsement. This he asked the court to sign and put on record. Judge Ballentine asked that no such action be taken at present and that the matter be taken by agreement to the circuit court. To this proposal Mr. Leftwich would not agree. Judge Ballentine asked the court to direct that all moneys over and above the clerk's salary and actual deputy hire for the year 1893 be paid into the county treasury pending the decision of the matter in the higher courts. This action the court declined to take, and Mr. Leftwich's request for a clean bill of health was complied with.

That, in fact, was a foregone conclusion. Just previous to the taking up of the case, the court had wrangled over a little bill for drugs supplied to the prisoners for quite a while—this case, involving thousands of dollars to the taxpayers, was put through in less than half an hour. The way in which the court tried to shelter itself behind the Prosecuting Attorney's advice and the latter got out of it by reminding the court that it was simply his opinion and might be right or wrong, made a very pretty interlude. Joe was too foxy for the court, and reminded them that in a saloon license case they had acted contrary to his advice. He evidently foresees the ultimate outcome of the case, and wants to be as far out of the shower as possible.

Assertion took the place of proof as to the decisions of the Supreme court and the usages in other counties in the talks made by Messrs. Leftwich, Moore and Hunter. The opinion of the Attorney General so carefully kept from the open light of day by Judge Norrid, was not considered worthy of attention, Messrs. Moore and Hunter being notoriously better lawyers than Attorney General Walker. Judge Norrid, one of Mr. Leftwich's bondsmen, had morally disqualified himself to take any part in the investigation by his former declarations. Gratuitous abuse of all and sundry who have had the presumption to call for an investigation or question Mr. Leftwich's right or ability to interpret to his superior officers the statutes governing his duties was indulged in by Messrs. Leftwich and Hunter. The latter gentleman and Moore talked

as if Mr. Leftwich was entitled to all he could earn as his own deputy or assistant, which remarkable piece of absurdity (like a man lifting himself by his boot straps) was accepted by the Three Wise Men, and they put on record a full indorsement of Mr. Leftwich's course, that of the Prosecuting Attorney and their own.

The following is the order approved by the court. Read it and see if you as a taxpayer, can approve of it:

"It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that John M. Leftwich, from term to term to the May term 1894 of this court inclusive, has filed with the clerk of this court his quarterly reports of fees collected by him as clerk of the circuit court and ex-officio recorder of Scott county, Missouri, as required by law, and the court further finds that the said John M. Leftwich as circuit clerk and ex-officio recorder as aforesaid has, in addition to his duties as said official, performed the duties and labors of a deputy; the court therefore allows the said John M. Leftwich the full amount allowed by law, regardless of whether the full amount has been paid to deputies or not; and the court further finds that the approval of said reports has not been entered of record in this court. It is now therefore ordered by the court that all of said reports of fees be, and they hereby are, approved by this court, and said John M. Leftwich as clerk of the circuit court and ex-officio recorder, as aforesaid, be discharged from any farther liability on account of said fees."

But what else could the poor things do? And how do the taxpayers like the farce? The next act comes off in the Circuit court.

In conclusion we will say that no man is infallible. It is our honest opinion that the county court has misappropriated over three thousand dollars of the people's money. It is possible that honest people may honestly differ with us. We have carefully investigated the matter, and have published the law, the Attorney General's opinion, Attorney Elliott's opinion, and the decisions of the Appellate and Supreme courts. All these bear us out in the stand we have taken. The opposition have simply abused us, and accused us of lying, but they have been very clear of taking up any particular statement we have made and attempting to contradict it. Even with the Attorney General's opinion in his possession directly opposing such action, Judge Norrid eagerly grasps the whitewash brush with both hands and swipes it over the whole affair. Why was it that no one was allowed to see the Attorney General's letter, except Mr. Leftwich and, perhaps, his counsel? Why was this opinion not produced in court? We will allow the people to draw their own conclusions.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Of the Village of Benton, Scott county, Mo., for the six months ending August 31, 1894.

RECEIPTS.	
Dramshop License.....	\$100 00
Show License.....	2 50
Fines.....	18 50
Sale of old jail, rock, etc.....	112 65
Total.....	233 65

EXPENDITURES.	
Old jail and hauling same to Sikeston.....	85 00
Clerk Fees.....	15 00
Printing.....	5 25
Judges Election.....	4 00
Marshal.....	73 50
Street Commissioner.....	14 35
Jailor Fees.....	7 50
Total.....	204 60

PHIL. A. HAFNER,
Ch'm Board of Trustees.

Have You Any Brickwork?

Parties wishing brickwork of any kind will do well to apply to Edward Tene, Oran, Mo., who is a practical bricklayer.

The candidates defeated at the primary will do well to remember that the law requires them to make a return of their expenses to the county clerk within thirty days after the date of the primary. A heavy penalty may follow neglect.

FROM BLODGETT.

The socially inclined portion of our town attended a large sized social gathering at the residence of Mr. M. G. B. Stubblefield last Thursday evening. All had a fine time, especially "Sug."

Rev. D. J. Leake preached his last sermon of the conference year at this place Sunday night. He will, however, hold a revival beginning Monday, Sept. 10th, and lasting two or more weeks.

Deputy G. M. Frank L. Bohn, of the A. O. U. W., will lecture at the M. E. Church in Blodgett, on Thursday evening, Sept. 13, 1894. Every one should turn out to hear one of the brightest young men of St. Louis advocate the grand principles of his order.

Blodgett like Hamburg has a club of dog punchers, which was organized about three years ago. We very vividly call to mind a shot fired one bitterly cold night about 1:30 a. m., at one of the offending canines. The ball from the big hammerless hit the frozen ground near the critter, and ricocheted into the big sign which hangs in front of the great Commercial Hotel, after which the writer and Charley pulled suddenly for bed, having the consciousness of duty well performed.

Prof. W. G. Atchison, who will teach our school the ensuing session, was down Thursday seeing after the seats, etc., at the schoolhouse.

Miss Mary Clayton and Johnny Utterback were in Blodgett last Sunday en route to their schools, which begin this week. They are both from Morley. Miss Clayton teaches the Pleasant Valley school while Mr. Utterback holds forth at the Hatcher schoolhouse.

Blodgett sent eight wagon loads, four buggies full, two carts jammed and horsemen enough to make a total of fifty-five Republicans to the famous County Convention at Benton last Saturday. She was well rewarded in the matter of nominations having three to her credit, namely, J. M. McCormick, for President; Judge of the County Court; R. G. Williams, for associate Judge, and V. O. Scofield, for Circuit Clerk. Mr. Williams eventually withdrew in favor of Esq. John Rushing, of Diehlstadt. It is now fixed that Blodgett has a full share of candidates in the field. Sail away, rabbit!

Isaac L. Smith, the champion barber, left here last Saturday for Marquand where he has a fine shop in full blast.

The Ananias Club got together in the vacant caboose on the north switch and the committee on Osteology and General Cussedness made an informal report concerning the conduct of two or three members of the gang. The Traveling Liar, who acted in the M. W. L.'s place, he not having returned from the Republican convention asked that the charges be dropped. Bro. Hercules Pendragon then said he had seen one of the charter members carrying his watch in his boot. He inquired of the brother his object and was told, "None of your blanked business" and he thought that perhaps the brother had had some transactions with the senatorial and sugar trust combine. Another brother was charged with having mixed beer and whiskey in the proportion of—beer 3 qts.—whiskey, 1 pt. and having induced a purchaser to partake of the banquet to such extent that the gentleman became hilarious and shrieked himself and danced a high-low and announced in capital letters that he, Rev. So-and-so, could run faster, jump higher, dive deeper and come up dryer than any duck in these diggings. He also linked his arm in that of the Ordinary Liar's and walked him up and down the street proposing that they hold a series of meetings and all of this on top of what had already been said. Investigation showed that in the first case the brother was excusable for carrying his watch in his boot as it was gold and liable to get cut in two if a man made a slash at him with a knife, the second might heal but you can't cure a divided watch. In the second case it was shown that the preacher was only a young Missouri

elder anyhow, who several days previous had got so drunk that he hid his own socks and when he got sober he couldn't find them so he had solicited the aid of the club to help him bowl up, so that he could again get hold of his socks. Howdy?

FROM ORAN.

"Tate" Query is convalescent. The long looked for rain came Monday evening and did a vast deal of good. Our neighborhood is now almost sure of a good corn crop.

Mrs. Frank Zundel has been on the pony list during the past few days. Mr. Gordon, the picture man, is in town.

Wm. Sayers has intermittent fever. John Ashley's new saloon fixtures loom up.

Mr. Githens is in St. Louis on business.

Wm. Stubblefield, Jr., is at White Springs.

Rev. Kennedy was not able to fill his appointment here Monday morning, but was present in the evening. Eugene Brider has meningitis.

Dr. Joe Wright is in Commerce this week. He has a complete outfit for dental work and gives satisfaction so far as heard from.

Lona Arterberry, a young lady living with Uncle John Friend, was found dead in her bed Tuesday morning at 1 o'clock. She had been ill for several days. Miss Lona was well known in this community and her untimely death is regretted by her many friends. She leaves a sister and two brothers to mourn her loss.

A. J. Horn has sold his barber shop to Mr. Lett, and has gone in search of a new location.

Miss Lora Forrester began her school in the Reid settlement Monday. Miss Estelle Query began her school in the same neighborhood Monday.

Our public school opened up Monday with Mrs. J. W. Clemson as principal, and Miss Beatty in charge of the primary department.

Choir practice at the Baptist church Sunday morning at 8:30. Everybody invited.

Mr. Engel is having a house built on his land northwest of town. Lyon and Revelle have the contract. The building will be close to the picnic grounds.

Louis Nichols resigned his position with Matthews, Stubblefield & Co. Prof. Scholz opened his select school at the Catholic church Monday.

Mr. Mansfield, the musician, favored our people with a few selections on the mandolin last week.

Wm. Meyers and family have returned from White Springs.

Mrs. Thos. Moran returned from Dunklin county last week.

Uncle George Metz is having his store painted up in good style.

Sickness considerably on the increase. Uno.

Tax on Playing Cards.

Every dealer must make a sworn return and pay the tax at the rate of two cents per pack. Every dealer must write his initials with ink on each stamp and the date when such stamp is placed on the pack. Omission to stamp each pack and cancel such stamp will subject the violator to a penalty of \$50 for each omission.

To Democratic Central Committees.

Morley, Mo., Sept. 3, '94 Democratic Central Committees—men who were elected at the last Democratic Primary election are requested to meet in their respective townships Sept. 15, 1894, at 1 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of organizing by electing a chairman who shall represent his township in the County Central Committee.

W. G. Atchison,

Ch'm Dem. Cen. Com.

FINE SHEEP FOR SALE.

I have a lot of fine Cotswold ewes for sale. I have 115 and give picking choice in lots of 20, at \$3.50. Apply JULES DUBRY, Lusk Farm, Kelso.

Hessemer & Miller have just received a large invoice of the famous Priesmeyer Shoes for ladies and children. Styles are neater, quality is better and prices are lower than ever before.

Republicans in Mass Convention.

The Republicans of Scott county met in mass convention at the court house in Benton last Saturday, to nominate a county ticket. Dr. R. A. Sparks, of Blodgett, presided and L. Clymer, of Commerce, was secretary. The utmost harmony prevailed throughout the proceedings and the humorous sallies of Judge Ballentine kept the convention in excellent spirits, considering the forlorn hope the party has on hand in old Scott. Long-winded speeches were not wanted, and none were inflicted. The Populists had hoped for a fusion with the g. o. p., but the latter couldn't see anything to fuse with and, with one exception, quietly ignored the nominees of the Third Party. Voting for the various nominees was effected by a show of hands, and it worked like a charm.

For Representative at Jefferson City, Maj. Rose, of Commerce, was the unhesitating choice of the convention. For Prosecuting Attorney, Jos. W. Moore, of Sikeston, was the unanimous choice. Rolan Cannon was tendered the aid of the party to wipe up the earth with Judge Leedy. V. O. Scofield had no opponent for Circuit Clerk. As between R. H. Query and G. P. McCoy for Recorder, the convention's choice fell to Mr. McCoy. R. H. Query, Robt. Finley and Jas. H. McCormack were put before the convention for the County Clerkship, and Mr. Query was the choice. For Sheriff, L. P. Clymer was chosen by acclamation. For Collector, B. J. Tenkhoff, Joe Hess and Frank Miller were submitted, and Mr. Miller won by an enthusiastic and overwhelming majority. For Treasurer, Judge Ballentine was put in nomination. The Judge objected for two reasons, namely, that he already had more money than he had any use for; and that his son-in-law was a candidate for the same office and he didn't want any suicide in his family. Nevertheless, the Judge had to take it. The Judge created a ripple of laughter by submitting the name of A. W. Fizer for Assessor. Not being able to say that Mr. Fizer would accept, J. B. Messmer, of Kelso, was the unanimous choice. J. H. Cooper, for Public Administrator; Dr. G. H. Butler, for Coroner; Jas. H. McCormack, for Presiding Judge; R. G. Williams, for 1st and Henry Peltz for 2nd District Judges completed the nominations.

In brief and acceptable fashion, Messrs. Rose, Cooper, Ballentine, Profit and Scofield addressed the convention, which immediately thereafter adjourned.

Benton has invested in a couple of balls and chains, which will be used in working the town's prisoners on the streets. The present system of feeding them gratis for a few days is played out.

The paramount duty of a newspaper to its constituency is the exposure of all lapses in duty on the part of public officials. This duty it must perform without fear or favor."

—Horace Greeley.

—Forest fires in Minnesota have caused the death of some 400 people, rendered thousands homeless, wiped out several towns and caused enormous destruction of property.

—Frank Miller is busy hulling clover and Charlie Profit is baling hay. Both of these products pay better than 40 cent wheat.

—The rain we needed so much fell copiously Monday evening and freshened things greatly. We can stand ever so much more, however.

—Mr. Thos. Deaton and daughter, Miss Mollie, of St. Louis, have been visiting relatives in and around Benton this week.

—The rock road from Cape Girardeau to Scott county is being regravelled and improved generally.

—Nick Schlosser contemplates the erection of a brick business house on his lot on the southeast corner of the courthouse square.

—On Monday Bob Wade returned to school at Caledonia and Lee Leftwich entered at the Normal, Cape Girardeau.

—An adjourned term of Probate court sits next Monday.

An Enterprising Town Board.

The present Town Board of the Village of Benton is certainly of the progressive class. They don't propose to let anything slip that will add to the building up of the town.

Last October the property owners around the courthouse square met with the Town Board and took an active part in having an ordinance passed establishing fire limits. Accordingly an ordinance was passed prohibiting anything but fireproof buildings from being erected within a prescribed area. This was not a voluntary act of the Board, but was done by agreement and by request of the property owners around the square.

Everybody recognized the ordinance and everything went well. All recognized that times were hard, and that there was no building going on in any part of the county, but hoped that when times did open up, brick buildings would surround the square.

But the crises came. One of our citizens wanted to build a stable and he wanted to put it where everybody could see it. Consequently, he bought twenty-six feet front of the most prominent lot fronting the court house and asked permission of the Board to build the stable. The Board is composed of our most enterprising and progressive citizens, and they were not willing to let the cranky ideas of the property owners stop the erection of such a structure, and knocked the fire limits ordinance into a cocked hat.

If any of our neighbors want to erect a slaughterhouse, stink factory or powder magazine anywhere within the fire limits, we can assure them that, in their eagerness to "improve the town," our Board will grant them anything they want.

While we are chairman of that august body, we wish to make it generally known that the stable permit was granted over our veto. "A new stable or bust," seemed to be the determination of every member of the Board, and now they may be seen with paper and pencil in hand diagraming and explaining to visitors what a model town Benton will be when the new 20x30 box stable is completed.

—A correspondent at Price's Landing reports that E. L. Brown is adding a story to his house; that J. W. Moore has moved to Dr. Bagwell's farm on the swamp; that health is good in that vicinity and that plowing goes on merrily.

—Our County court scored a good point in favor of better roads by the purchase of a scraper which does in a day what takes a week under the present system. We need about six of these implements.

—The Benton public school opened Monday with an attendance of about sixty pupils. This will be largely augmented when farm work is more nearly over and the older boys are at liberty to attend.

—The return game between Commerce and Charleston ball clubs was played at Charleston Wednesday, and resulted in a victory for Charleston—8 to 5.

—Parties who prefer to take their toddy *sub rosa* should use OLD LYNCH RYE, from which there is no strong odor to betray the act.

—James Walker went to Creal Springs, Ill., Tuesday, in quest of better health. He was accompanied by his nephew, Tom Donovan.

—Roscoe Steels will go to the State school for the deaf and dumb at Fulton, Mo. next Tuesday.

—The Arkansas State election resulted in a Democratic majority of thirty thousand votes. So, there!

—Miss Daisy Leedy will return to school at Forest Park, St. Louis, next week.

—Otto Holm, the artistic painter, of Cape Girardeau, was in Benton Thursday.

—"Labor Day" was observed in and around Benton last Monday by everybody laboring as much as usual.

—Timothy Clark has been dangerously ill with brain trouble, but is recovering.

—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Profit Sundayed at Cape Girardeau.

County Court Proceedings.

County court met last Monday in adjourned term, and the following business was transacted during the three days' session:

August Schlegel resigned as road overseer and Casper Eifert was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Fifty dollars was appropriated to levee the Reeveswad slough on Sikes-ton and Malone's Mill road and commissioners appointed.

In road petitions of John Schlitt et al and J. H. Crowder et al—surveyor's reports filed and approved and commissioners appointed.

In road petitions of J. F. Bagwell and Alex. Armstrong—surveyor's reports filed and approved.

In that of D. F. C. Roberts—commissioners appointed.

Change of road granted on petition of Thos. Howell.

In the matter of building a bridge over Dick Hunter's residence—commissioners' report filed and approved and C. McClain, contractor, allowed \$65.

The following allowances were made: John J. Diebold, lumber, \$11.50; Ferd Ostner, amount expended on road, \$150; same as special commissioner on road, \$32; Martin Bischer, care of Martin Goodert, \$13; Thos. N. Myers, pauper's coffin, \$6; R. L. Harrison, Surveyor, \$62; A. K. Boutwell, lumber, \$55.79; G. D. Harland & Co., printing, \$30.60; W. B. Schafer, goods furnished prisoners, \$2.10; Drs. Henderson and Vineyard, medical attendance on prisoners at Jackson, \$8.70; A. L. Daniel, special constable, \$1; Wm. Hynter, swamp lands commissioner, \$27; Geo. Hart, work in court yard, \$2; J. S. Froeding, medical attendance, \$18; E. H. Smith, printing, \$3.90; P. A. Hafner, printing, \$4.50; Friend & McMullin, \$10.75; Sam Tanner, sheriff fees, \$32; Heisserer & Miller, goods, \$26.50; F. C. Austin Manufacture Co., road scraper, \$200; Jas. McPheeters, \$144; J. E. Marshall, \$25.70; W. F. Friend, 25.50; and J. H. Norrid, 25.50.

Justices of the Peace, Schoen, Harrison and Halley filed reports.

E. H. Smith rented the old circuit clerk's office at \$30 per year.

\$172 was appropriated for the Morley and Little River road.

Court adjourned Wednesday evening.

The Newsboy Not in "De Push."

The Newsboy could be right in "de push" if "de push" were permitted to dictate what shall appear in its columns. "De push" may be able to control the prosecuting attorney, the courts, etc., but when they undertake to dictate what shall appear in the Newsboy they get gloriously left. However, they have a sheet right on the square which is the "official organ," and it will, no doubt, applaud and approve of the entire farce. It dare not do otherwise.

—Messrs. Linton Jones and E. B. Mills, of Sikeston, were at the county seat early in the week.

—From sheer force of habit, Judge Albrecht attended County court last Monday.

—A patent gate is on exhibition in Benton—one of the kind you open and close without dismounting.

—Messrs. Anderson's warehouse at the Benton depot is approaching completion.

—Mr. Pott has set afloat some milk talk again, but it should be taken with the proverbial grain of salt.

—Wm. Reeder, Sr., is still very sick with typhoid fever.

—Little Meredith Leedy is quite sick with typhoid fever.

"Squire Peal, of Blodgett, was in Benton on legal business Thursday.

Besides being the proprietors of the famous OLD LYNCH RYE, Lynch & Co. are said to be the largest holders of fine Kentucky, Tennessee and Pennsylvania whiskies in Missouri.

—Tom Hinkle and Rube Satterfield are terrors to evil doers.

—Landed our gang of native Missouri lars behind the bars. They are out of luck.