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BUTLER MISSOURI,
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3, 1883.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The first of the new year is upon us, and custom as well as necessity prompts us to call upon our patrons for the little balance due.

We have upon our subscription book a number of names of parties owing for the **TIMES** from one to four years. We have aimed to get along during the close period of the past year without calling upon our subscribers for money, and thus having favored you we feel that the compliment should now be returned. If you are not able to pay us up in full pay what you can afford, thereby showing your good will, and we will be contented to wait on you for the remainder till your purses are more replete with gold, silver and greenbacks.

Persons not taking the **TIMES** will bear in mind that it is an eight page, paper and only \$1.25 per year.

THE MINE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

We publish elsewhere this week, the annual report of Marsh L. Wolfe, Mine Inspector of Bates county.

It is a very thorough and exhaustive review of the coal interests of the county, and does great credit to its author, Mr. Wolfe. It shows that he has taken much care in compiling the facts and figures of this very important industry, which will redound very considerably to the interests of the whole county.

A noticeable feature of the report is very flattering showing the existence of coal in several sections of the county. Especially is this the case in Walnut, Elkhart, Mt. Pleasant and West Point townships, where a strata of coal is found at a reasonable distance below the surface from three to four feet in thickness. The report states regarding the vein in Walnut township, that it is by far the most uniform in the county, and as yet practically undeveloped. The chief mining operations are in progress in the vicinity of Rich Hill, while the exhibit shows a vein fully as paying, if proper transportation was had, in the townships above mentioned, and in and around Adrian.

The report makes an exhibit in the coal interests hitherto unknown, and we might say unexpected by some, but its correctness in the plain statement of facts none we presume will question.

Mr. Chas. T. McFarland, editor of this paper, left for Jefferson City Saturday evening to be present at the assembling of the Legislature to-day. His wife accompanied him as far as Nevada where she will remain with her parents during his absence.

The new year begins with a promising outlook. Though in some quarters business may seem dull and dreary now but by March 1st there will be a perceivable and gratifying change.

Jacob Blitz, a well known musician, committed suicide by shooting himself in Kansas City, on Christmas morning, cause too much women.

Prohibition is becoming less popular in Missouri day by day, but its advocates still clamor for an amendment.

The Missouri Bar Association, convened in annual session, at Sedalia on the 27th of December.

The Missouri Valley Teachers Association, met at Sedalia on Dec 28th. A good attendance was present.

THE NEW OFFICIALS.

Bates County's New Officers Inaugurated Monday.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

The incoming of the new year brought other things than the usual compliments of the season and the proverbial resolution of good behavior for the future. While the young gentlemen were paying their respects to the ladies who kept open house, and the stern business man was preparing his books for the annual collection, there was going on at the court house a change in the official management of the county, a sort of stepping down and out on the one hand, and a stepping up and in on the other. All was done according to custom and law, amid perfect good humor, pleasant words and New Year's greeting.

As the law of Missouri requires, new officers elected must take the place of the old ones on the first day of January following their election. Accordingly all arrangements were made by the Bates county officers for a general turning over of the effects of the various offices to their respective successors, on Monday the first day of January.

There is not, however, any stipulated time when the new Sheriff shall take possession. This being the case Sheriff Simpson turned over the effects of the office to his successor W. F. Hanks on the first of December. Treasurer elect Catron assumed control of his office on Friday of last week, but was not formally installed till Monday.

A change took place in every office but two, circuit clerk and coroner, in these cases the old incumbents were re-elected.

The old county court convened Friday, Dec. 29th, and adjourned Saturday to meet no more in that capacity. They settled with the old county officers, and transacted some other important business, an account of which is published elsewhere in to-day's **TIMES**.

Apropos with the inauguration of the new officers should come some brief biographical mention of each as they are now public servants and their career is a matter of interest to all.

JOHN RUDOLPH JENKINS.

The man who has conducted the affairs of Circuit Clerk of Bates county so efficiently for the past four years, and re-elected without opposition for another four years term, is the name that heads this paragraph. John Rudolph Jenkins, was born in Nelson county Virginia, Oct. 7th 1840. At the age of seven years, he moved with his parents to Illinois. Remaining there eleven years he came to Missouri in 1853, and located in Clinton, Henry county, where he remained till 1861, when he joined Prices army remaining in the service about eighteen months. In 1865 he removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, and accepted a position in a wholesale house, remaining there four years. In 1869, he went to Illinois and embarked in business for himself, and in 1871 returned to Henry county, this State, and in the year following located in Bates county, where he lived ever since till elected Circuit Clerk in 1878. Mr. Jenkins is a married man with one child, a little girl, having lost an only boy and an eulogy on our part would be superfluous in 1881. The people know Mr. Jenkins.

RETURN J. STARKE.

The new county clerk of this county is Return J. Starke commonly known as "Bud" Starke. Mr. Starke is a native Missourian, having been born in Cooper county, November, 9th, 1846. Unlike some of his fellow officers, he has lived pretty much all his life in one place. He came direct from Cooper county to Bates in 1867, and located on a farm in the east part of the county where he remained till Rich Hill sprang up, when he cast his fortunes with the new city. He was twice elected Marshal of Rich Hill, a position he resigned before his second term had expired. His occupation up to the time of going to Rich Hill, was farming and handling stock,

at which vocation he was very successful, and was never a candidate for any office till he ran for County Clerk. Mr. Starke is a man possessing good business and social habits, and is fully qualified. He has a wife and five children, three boys and two girls. Mr. Starke has shown good sense and judgment in choosing for his deputy that gallant, honorable and efficient young gentleman, Capt. J. D. Allen, son of Maj. Dick Allen of New Home. Too much can not be said in eulogy of Jake Allen. His record, character, sterling good sense and generous heart commend him to the world in terms beyond the power of our vocabulary.

ROBT. S. CATRON.

County Treasurer, Frank Trimble, will be succeeded by the above named gentleman. Mr. Catron was born in Lafayette county, Missouri, August 25th 1839. His youth and early manhood was spent in Lafayette county. His education and permanent habits of life were acquired there. He served three years supporting the Stars and Bars under Gen. Joe Shelby, casting his all with the destiny of the Lost Cause.

In 1869 he came to Bates county and located in West Point township, purchasing a farm which he owns to this day. He was a candidate before the Democratic county convention of 1878 for county clerk, at the time Judge E. A. Henry was elected. In 1880 he was the choice of the Democrats for Collector, and was elected to and filled the office creditably till it was abolished by virtue of the adoption of township organization. Mr. Catron is a sound business man of honor and good character. He has a wife and four children, two boys and two girls, making a happy family.

JAMES R. SIMPSON.

The gentleman who succeeds, Mr. Pace as Recorder of deeds, has few superiors as a business man and is a gentleman wherever you find him. He was born in West Port, Jackson county, Mo. June, 24 1843. When four years old his father moved to Cass county where he remained seven years, and then moved to Bates, locating in the east part of the county. At the breaking out of the war James R. joined the confederate army and under the famous Joe Shelby, fought the battles of the war a brave and trusty soldier. In 1878 Mr. Simpson was elected sheriff of Bates county and re-elected to the same place in 1880. In 1870 Mr. Simpson was married to Miss A. L. Lutsenhizer, a native of Bates county. Mr. Simpson has two little girls living, having lost an only boy several years ago. Mr. Simpson will employ his brother Duke Simpson as deputy, a gentleman whose abilities are well adapted to the duties of the position.

COL. SAMUEL F. HAWKINS.

Who will preside in the Probate Judges court, is the oldest officer in the court house, having been born April 6 1826, in Franklin county Kentucky. He remained a resident of the county till 1857 when he moved to Johnson county, Missouri, stopping there one year and then coming to Bates, where his home has been ever since, except a period during the war which he spent in Knob Noster, Johnson county. He was ticket agent for the Mo. Pacific Railroad Co., at Knob Noster during the last two years of the war. After the war had closed he returned to this county where he has remained ever since. Col. Hawkins was a married man his wife dying in 1881, but no children blessed the union. In 1876, he was a candidate for the Legislature before the Democratic convention which nominated Judge Sullens. He is a man of education and refinement, being of that type of Kentucky gentlemen that instill's confidence, respect and admiration. He is a fit person to succeed to the position so efficiently filled by his predecessor Judge D. V. Brown.

WM. F. HANKS.

The Sheriff elect of Bates county, is neither a stranger to the duties he was called to perform, or the people who choose him. He was born in Morganon Wolfe county Ken-

tucky, August 27 1837. In the year 1859 he went to Augusta Georgia, where he remained till the spring of 1861, when he returned to Kentucky and married. He was elected county clerk of Wolfe county in 1861, a position he filled till 1863, when he removed to Illinois. He was deputy sheriff of Cole county, Illinois two years. In 1866 he returned to Kentucky, locating in Montgomery county, and in 1868 emigrated to Texas where he remained three years. In 1871 he returned to Augusta Georgia, remaining there one year and then coming to Bates county, Missouri. He lived on a farm in the east part of the county till he became sheriff Simpson's deputy in 1878, a position he filled with marked efficiency and faithfulness up to the time of his own election to the position. We venture the statement that there is no man in the State who can transact more business pertaining to the sheriff's office in one day than that man Bill Hanks. He has a constitution of iron and a spirit that never flags. He has a wife and one child, a boy about twelve years of age, having lost a daughter.

SIMEON P. FRANCISCO,

The successor of that excellent county official, Prosecuting Attorney Thos. W. Silvers, is the youngest officer in the court house. What may be lacking in experience is made up in his splendid acquirements as a lawyer, and his native ability as an orator. He was born in Saline county, Mo. June 14 1859, and is, therefore, in his twenty-fourth year. In 1873, he went to Waverly, Lafayette county, where he was a clerk in a dry goods store for his brother two years. He then attended the Kirksville Normal school eight months, after which he went to Warrensburg and graduated at the Normal school there two years later. He then went to the Literary department of the Michigan University where he graduated with distinguished honors. He read law under O. L. Houts of Warrensburg, and was admitted to the bar in 1879. He then returned to the Michigan University and graduated in the law department. He came to Butler in June 1881.

JOHN A. LEFKER.

The gentleman who will perform the duties of Presiding Justice of Bates county for the next four years to come, is favorably known as a man of business and ability, thoroughly imbued with public enterprise. He was born in Richmond Indiana, January 16, 1836. At the age of seventeen he emigrated to Ohio, and at the expiration of two years came to Linn county, Kansas. He lived there on a farm from 1857 till 1866, when he went to Kansas City. In 1868, he moved to Cass county, where he remained till 1870 and then moved to Bates county, locating near the Kansas line. He has lived in Butler now about five years. He was a candidate for the Legislature before the Democratic convention of 1876, but was outvoted by Judge John H. Sullens. He was elected Mayor of the city of Butler a year ago. Mr. Lefker has been married the second time. His first wife died in 1870, by whom he had four children, and only one of which is now living. His second marriage took place in 1876. Three children has been the result of the second union, only one of which is living. Judge Lefker is an upright christian gentleman, being a member of the Presbyterian church.

DRURY D. WOOD, M. D.

Who will be his own successor as Coroner of Bates county, was born in Arrow Rock, Saline county, Mo. May 9, 1842. Dr. Wood is a graduate of University of Iowa, and Missouri Medical College of St. Louis. He began the practice of medicine in his native county in 1865, where he resided till 1878 when he came to Butler and located. He was elected Coroner first in 1880, and re-elected last fall. Dr. Wood is unmarried. As a physician he is universally respected and very successful. He is a high-toned, sociable gentleman, and makes a most acceptable Coroner.

The **TIMES** regrets the unavoidable omission of the biographies of Hon. Levi Moler, and Judges Nep-

tune and Ritchey. Living as they do in remote portions of the county, we were unable in the brief period allotted to the purpose, to see them and get the facts necessary for a notice. We may publish their biographies at another time.

MINING REPORT.

M. L. Wolfe, Mine Inspector of Bates County Files His Annual Report.

AN INTERESTING DOCUMENT.
BUTLER, Mo. Jan. 1, 1883.
HON. J. H. SPAUNHORST,
ST. LOUIS MO.

DEAR SIR:—Having completed, my annual report of the coal mines and coal fields of Bates county, as required by law. I herewith have the honor of forwarding the same to you.

Annual production of coal in tons, 1,040,000
Number of acres of workable coal lands, 95,000
Number of mines in operation in the county, 195

A number of these banks have been worked only a few days during the year, and many of them have been worked by parties owning them for their private use. The roofing of these mines in most cases, are slate or rock.

Mine or Slope No. 1, operated by the Rich Hill Coal company, located on n. e. qr sec 36, tp 39, r 33, employ 190 men; thickness of vein, 4 feet 10 inches, roofing hard slate, the immediate superintendent of this mine is Edward Fitzsimmond, a man thoroughly acquainted with his business, and keeps more air in his mine than the law requires; he also keeps it well distributed.

Mine No. 4, operated by same company located on the n. e. qr sec 31, tp 39 r 31. Shows a vein of coal in several places where a tape line was applied, to be 6 feet 2 inches thick. This mine is leased, and operated, by T. McCombs an experienced miner, he has the lawful amount of air in his mine, but it is not as well distributed as in mine No. 1. He pays 3 cts a bushel for mining coal. A number of miners informed me that they took out and loaded in boxes on an average, 110 bushels of coal per day. Mr. McCombs informed me that some of the men who had left him were making \$120.00 a month. This mine is operated by shaft, and employs about 80 men, roofing hard slate.

Mine No. 5, Rich Hill coal company is leased and operated by A. Wilson and is located on n. w. qr sec 36 tp 39 r 32, coal 4 1-2 feet thick; roofing hard slate, and operated by shaft, this is a new opening and room is found for only about 25 men. Boiler, engine and buildings, new and first class, Mr. Wilson will put in a larger force as soon as he can make room for them.

L. J. Birch a thorough practical man is general superintendent for the Rich Hill coal mining company. He is also operating with a large force stripping and lifting coal in sections 25 and 36 tp 39 r 32, and sec 31 and 32 tp 39 r 31.

A large amount of coal is being stripped and lifted in sec 25 tp 39 r 32, by Keith and Perry also in sec 4 and 5 tp 38 r 31 coal 4 to 6 feet thick. This company employs about 250 men and 90 teams paying for laborers \$1.50 per day and for man and team \$3.00. The depth below the surface from 1 to 100 feet, nine tenths of the banks in operation from four to ten feet.

No. of Men employed Dec. 30 '82 1625. Amount of capital employed in mining \$280,000, nine-tenths of the coal shipped out of the county is mined within three miles of Rich Hill which is located on part of sections 4, 5, 8, 9, tp 38 r 31.

Township 39 r 33 shows a vein of coal three to five feet in 48 different places 30 of these places are now or have been recently worked. This is by far the finest township in the county; for coal runs more uniformly, lays with more regularity. The coal is of an excellent quality and has fine roofing. The A. T. & S. F. R. company have made a survey for a road through the coal fields of this township. In tp 38, 39, 39, 30 and 39, 29 there are in the aggregate 21 developments of coal, the vein be-

ing from three to five feet two inches in thickness.

M. Cunningham in section 29 s. e. qr of the s. e. qr tp 39 r 29 is working a vein 5 feet 2 inches, stone roofing Townships 41, r 32, tp 41 r 33, tp 40 r 33, shows a vein of coal 36 to 38 inches thick, of good quality with good roofing in 37 different places the most of these being worked on a small scale.

On the n. e. qr sec 21 tp 40 r 31 is a coal bank in operation 3 feet thick, 8 feet below the surface, of fair quality, while in nearly every section in the township, a vein has at some time been worked on a small scale from 18 inches to 24 thick.

Sec. 35 tp 42 r 31 shows a vein of coal 36 inches thick twelve feet below the surface, was mined quite extensively a few years ago by John Moudy and found sale among the surrounding farmers and north in Cass county. Drilling is now in progress at Adrian about 3 miles south west of this point on the Mo. P. R. R. the purpose of which is to tap this vein and others, supposed to be lower down.

In sec 22 tp 43 r 33 on the lands of W. R. Marshall a fine article of oil is found, pronounced by experts genuine kerosene oil. It is used in the Butler mills for lubricating purposes and indicates, some experts claim, heavy coal deposits near by.

In sec 6 n. e. qr, tp 41 r 30, J. H. McCombs has worked a vein of coal 3 feet thick 8 feet below the surface with good roofing of slate.

Mr. G. Inyard in digging a well on n 1-2 sec 5 tp 41 r 30 passed through 3 feet of coal, also on the lands of Mrs. Totty sec 29 tp 43 r 30 is a vein of coal 3 foot thick. The entire county seems to be underlaid with this 3 foot vein, while above it, in many places is a vein running from 18 inches to 2 feet and below is the 5 foot vein.

On February 8th, 1882, John and Peter Gommert (Bros.) while at work in mine No. 2, Rich Hill coal company works, were seriously injured by the premature discharge of a blast. John Gommert, on Feb. 11th following, died from said injuries, while Peter Gommert is a cripple for life, both, I was told were at the head of families. From the best information I could gather the cause of the accident is as follows: The two men were at work in a room together, had drilled a hole in the coal and put in the powder, one was throwing in dirt for packing while the other was packing it with an iron headed rod, said rod coming in contact with a band of sulphur that exists in all coals here made fire which was communicated to the powder. Also on Feb. 21st by the premature discharge of a shot in mine No. 1, Rich Hill coal company works, C. Miller and E. McGuire, miners, were seriously injured. Investigation showed that the accident was caused by the use of iron headed tamping rods making fire from some of the bands of metal running through the coal, the principal of which is sulphur.

On May 26th, Harrison Fell, a miner, had his ankle mashed or broken in mine No. 4, Rich Hill coal company works. Fell with several other miners as was customary stepped on the cage to be lowered down the shaft, the signal was properly given to the engineer who lowered or threw them down at so rapid a rate of speed that Mr. Fell was crippled as above stated. Investigation showed that R. Wilson, the engineer, was absent on account of sickness in his family; and that a man acting as fireman at the time, named Baker, utterly incompetent, undertook to lower the men with the above results.

On Nov. 30th, O. W. Olney, a carpenter, in mine No. 4, Rich Hill coal company works, was seriously injured from the effects of which he died. On Dec. 8th, it appears that Mr. Olney was ordered to repair a door that hung on the partition between the air shaft and main shaft that cages run up and down through. To work at the door he had to step in main shaft at intervals when cages was not passing. He was partly deaf and had no signal of cages coming but their sound, hence was struck by one on the head and knocked down shaft with the above result.

In many mining countries there is a law compelling the use of a copper-headed tamping rod, which if adopted here would save many lives. I find many of the more prudent miners here have them now.

M. L. WOLFE,
Mine Inspector of Bates county.