

The Holt County Sentinel.

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37TH YEAR.

Current Comment.

The tax levy for state purposes is the lowest of any state in the union.—Governor Dockery.

By this statement the governor evidently seeks to make the average taxpayer believe that by this low tax levy his taxes are less. The reduction of the tax levy from 20 to 15 cents on the \$100 valuation, was made in accordance with a provision in our state constitution, and not by the party now in control of the state, and while the levy has been reduced in accordance with that provision, they practically nullify it by increasing the valuations, thus compelling the taxpayer to put up more money. A reduction of the tax levy should mean less taxes, but it does not in this state. As a matter of fact, it really means more taxes.

The statement is, as a matter of fact far from being true. The governor, we think, is badly mistaken. The tax rate in Illinois is 8 1/2 cents on the \$100 valuation and Iowa 7 cents on the \$100.

From 1875 to 1892, under a 20 cent levy, the land values were increased from \$239,670,975 to \$275,259,777; increase 10 per cent. From 1892 to 1898 under a 15 cent levy, lands were increased in valuation \$41,421,450 during these six years, or \$5,000,000 more than during the previous 17 years. The annual average increase from '75 to '92 was \$2,000,000; from '92 to '98, the average increase was \$6,900,000 or more than three times as much.

In 1893, just following the reduction of the tax levy from 20 to 15 cents, the farming lands of the state were increased nearly \$100 per acre.

In 1891, under a 20 cent levy, the lands in Daviess county, the home of our governor, were assessed on an average value of \$7.39 per acre; in 1894, under a 15 cent levy, they had been increased to \$8.93 per acre, and in 1900, they went up to \$11.31 per acre. In 1891, Daviess county paid into the state treasury on account of state revenue and state interest tax \$18,965, and in 1900, she paid \$21,495, and this too in face of the fact that the state debt was some \$6,000,000 less than in 1891.

In 1891, Holt county lands were assessed on an average value of \$10.00 per acre, and in 1900, she paid on an average value of \$11.98. In 1891, she paid into the state treasury on account of state revenue and state interest tax \$14,963, and in 1900, it amounted to \$19,454.

In 1872, the railroads were assessed on a valuation of \$19,191 per mile; in 1900, they were assessed at \$11,400 per mile. Thus it will be seen that the lands have been gradually increased in valuation, and hence more taxes have been collected from the farmers, notwithstanding the reduction of the tax levy from 20 to 15 cents. The rich and powerful corporations have been benefited by this reduction and not the plain people.

Another error the governor makes. He forgets that in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, and many other states, a certain amount of personal property is exempted from taxation. In Missouri nothing is exempted, not even the washer-woman's boiler.

In 1875, the revenue tax for state purposes was \$1,191,184 for running the state government annually, while in 1900, the tax collected to run the state government was \$2,234,293, or \$1,043,109 in excess of what it cost to run the government in 1875.

We believe that we have fully shown that the tax rate is not the only thing that determines the amount of money taken from the people's pockets. The valuation of property must also be included. These together make up the tax burdens, and that the increase in valuations far exceed the decrease in the tax levy, hence the tax burdens have become heavier under a 15 cent levy than they were under a 20 cent levy, and the governor's attempt to impress the readers of his late address, that the burdens of taxpayers have been lightened, is all both.

The Democratic state convention which met at Jefferson City, June 14, adopted the following as one of its planks to their platform:

That we regard every attempt by any other corporations to influence the public or political affairs of our country as a serious menace to the public welfare, and fully recognize that the evil of great corporations constantly interfering in public affairs is constantly increasing throughout the country. We therefore pledge the Democratic party of Missouri to combat and attack this great evil until it entirely disappears from the state.

Rev. James Bradley, member of the legislature from Audrain county, testified in the Cardwell case that Sam. B. Cook, when chairman of the state Democratic committee, had urged him to vote for the Breeders' bill legalizing pool selling at the St. Louis race tracks. Ex-Governor Stephens testified that Cook told him that as soon as he, the governor, signed the bill, he, Cook, would get a big fee for it. From this evidence, all Democratic, it seems that

Cook, as chairman of the Democratic state committee, was personally interested in the Breeders' bill, a measure establishing a monopoly of pool selling privileges in St. Louis. When it comes to creating monopolistic privileges, the state house ring is the worst in the state.

J. M. Seibert, chairman of the Democratic state committee, said in a speech to the members of that committee at its recent session, that "we must elect the state superintendent of public instruction to marshal the teachers." The duty of a marshal is to get people in line. So we reasonably infer that the Democratic nominee for state superintendent of schools will be expected to make his office a machine to line up the teachers to vote the Democratic ticket. This is a dangerous condition of affairs, and every lover of our free school system should resent it and vote to defeat those who seek to degrade our school officers and teachers to the level of a few selfish, dishonest state politicians.

Comment and Story.

Said a cigar salesman to us the other day: "I can't that the annual swearing off on New Year's day hurts our trade any. Of course it is always a little dull right after Christmas, many of our patrons having received boxes of cigars for Christmas gifts. But so far as confirmed smokers swearing off, the number is very small, as smoking becomes a necessity to many men and is often prescribed by physicians for the nerves and for men who put on flesh too rapidly."

We overheard a conversation between two of our well known farmers the other day. Said one to the other: "A low down wagon on the farm has come to stay, and the man who does not have one of them does not know what he is missing. Any wagon maker can make one of them out of an old wagon."

Tom Frye, the butcher, told us one day last week. "Do you know," said he, "that the holiday is hard on the butchers. There are always a great many turkeys and chickens sold, rabbit, are in season, and the farmers bring in their home made sausage and spareribs and backbones, and the butchers have to sit back and wait until the people get their fill of these kind of meats."

A pretty young woman is operating in neighboring towns, soliciting for an advertising scheme that takes on eight. Her plan is to agree to place the name of her victim upon a large number of paper sacks and place the same in certain grocery stores. She secures from one to five dollars from each of her customers and, of course, that is the end of it. The paper sacks never show up, the pretty girl is gone, and so is the money paid her.

A fashionable little woman, all muffled up in furs, called on her physician the other day, complaining of a bad cold. "What, again?" said the gruff medical person. "Didn't I tell you several months ago how to avoid such afflictions? Remove your boa, please. Ah, just as I thought. Your throat tightly wound in a yard or so of ribbon. Now, my dear Mrs. Blank, if you wish to avoid taking such violent colds you must positively abandon that fashion. Please realize that the high collars that women wear around their necks are responsible for nearly all the colds that your sex gets. Winter and summer alike you will insist upon wrapping up your delicate necks in high silk, velvet, cloth, linen or chiffon covering. With the first draught there is a cough. My advice to you as friend and physician is to go straight home and when you cure this cold throw away your ribbons and other neck traps. Leave the neck bare. Never mind what the other women do. You will find your health much improved if you give your neck a chance to get acquainted with the natural order of things."

Senator Mason has had a conference with the postmaster-general for the purpose of securing the issuance of an order which will remove what might be termed a discrimination against farmers in regard to the delivery of their mail. Under the present regulations the carrier goes over his route the same way every day, and as a consequence some always receive their mail early and others at the end of the route always receive it late. It is proposed to have the carriers start one day at the beginning of the route and reverse the order of things the next. This will equalize matters as far as the time of the delivery of the mail is concerned, as those residing at the beginning of the route will get their mail early one day and late the next, and the same consideration will exist as regards those at the end of the route. Postmaster-General Payne now has the matter under consideration and will, within the next few days, issue an order on the subject.

—Go see the Glass Blowers at Forest City—a present to every visitor—Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

THE PINE TREE STATE.

Hugh Benton Tells of Some Sights He Has Seen in His New Home—Potato Culture, Etc.

EDITORS SENTINEL:—With your kind permission I will endeavor, through the columns of your most valuable paper, to inform some of my old friends and acquaintances how an old Oregon boy is withstanding the severe winter of this country, Northern Maine.

First, I will tell you something in regard to the climate here. It has not been so I am told by old settlers and others who have been here, as cold or has there been so light a fall of snow for several years, as in the present year, so far. Still, notwithstanding this fact, I have never, since the first fall of snow over two months ago, seen a wheeled vehicle—everything is on runners, from the finest turnouts to a Standard Oil wagon. Up to a few weeks ago we had on the level about three feet of snow, with the thermometer anywhere from 10 above to 28 below zero. When it got down to about twenty below, with the wind driving snow at you at the rate of twenty or thirty miles an hour, I began to think Missouri a tropical country compared to Maine. Still, after all the cold weather and piles of snow, Maine is a pleasant place to reside in, for health first or for money making in any occupation you may see fit to engage in.

The principal crop with the farmer is potatoes, commonly called Aroostook spuds. Every farmer has from five to 50 acres of potatoes, which yielded this year anywhere from 50 to one hundred and eighty barrels to the acre (2 1/2 bushels) to the barrel, bringing at the present market price, two dollars per barrel, anywhere from \$100 to \$236 per acre. This year was a splendid year in regard to price, but the yield is about the same one year with another. I have seen 20 cars of potatoes in one train, going over the Bangor & Aroostook railroad bound for New York, owned and shipped by one man; each car contained from 200 to 250 barrels, so you can readily see the potato raising industry in Aroostook county, Maine, is no small thing, and, in time will be larger, for just as fast as the lumber and pulp wood for the large paper mills is taken off, the ground is cleared and put in Aroostook spuds.

Next to potatoes comes hay for which they receive at present, \$9.50 a ton; oats are next, present price, 55 cents per bushel. No corn is raised to speak of, but if you were to buy a bushel of corn and you should plank down a silver dollar, all the change tendered you would be two small looking, insignificant ten cent pieces, or possibly a Canadian twenty cent piece, of which there are many, and if you do not keep your eye peeled you will receive one in place of an American twenty-five cent piece.

Canada money has exactly the same value, one is as good as the other, but American coin predominates, but not so with currency, for you see, as the boys say, all kinds of Canadian bills from 25 cents up, that is if you are fortunate enough to secure any of them at all. Deer and moose are plenty and no rare occurrence to see a bear, providing you are looking for them.

Houlton is a prosperous town of five thousand people, situated on the line of the Bangor and Aroostook railroad; also a branch of the Canadian Pacific runs into Houlton connecting with the main line at Debec Junction, eight miles from here, Bangor & Aroostook railroad connecting at Bangor with Maine Central to Portland, Maine, Boston and Maine, thence to Boston, or in the event of not desiring railway travel after reaching Bangor, Maine, 128 miles from Houlton, you can take steamship to Boston or New York down the Atlantic Ocean, thus you see we are within easy reach of the largest city in the United States. Houlton has a fine school, one of the best in the state, Rieper Classical Institute, a fine system of waterworks, electric lights, fair association, with a lovely trotting park, a first-class roller flour mill, numerous starch factories, a first-class fire department, also a very able and efficient police force. Large fine brick and white sand stone United States government building, which is occupied by the custom house officials and as a postoffice, fine business blocks, good hotels, first-class opera house, also a music hall, also has a first-class foundry, large sawmill which turns out shingles, laths, all kinds of lumber; in fact, Houlton, Maine, is a prosperous town which condition has come to stay.

Well, I expect I have occupied more space than I deserve so I will stop for this time, and will add in conclusion, anyone with small means and who are willing to labor, who wish to live among a prosperous, thrifty, congenial class of people, come to Houlton, Maine, in any profession you wish. I am with the Bangor & Aroostook railroad, wiping

engines at present. I am faithfully an old Holt county boy.

HUGH J. BENTON.
Houlton, Maine, January 21, 1902.

An Astounding Statement.

The public school, if the truth were to be told and accepted by thoughtful men, would be found to be the chief influence in the propagation of atheism among the people. On the score of excluding sectarianism from its teaching it has excluded religion; and morality, either in public or private life, finds only a rational basis in the philosophy of the American public school.—St. Paul Globe.

That astounding assertion must not be let pass without challenge. It is difficult to decide in which it excels, its bigotry, its ignorance or its falsity. In its bigotry it confounds morality, the foundation, that relates to conduct in life, with religion, the speculative superstructure of conjuncture as to conditions after life. In its ignorance it assumes that, because sectarian religion is not taught in the schools, morality is not in its falseness it charges upon the people an atheism that exists in no sane mind anywhere.

The atmosphere of every school vibrates with moral influences. They radiate from the teacher; the multiplication table is a lesson in morals. The whole environment of the child in school tends to develop moral and deter growth of immoral sentiment. Could the environment of all the homes of all the pupils be as good, the country would soon have better citizens.

If by "atheism" it means a denial of the existence of a creator, then, we repeat, it asserts a condition nowhere existing among sane persons. If by it is meant the rejection of the conception of the Creator as a superior man, motivated like man, hating and loving, killing and saving, then, compared with doctrines held a century ago, the very churches are atheistic. If by "atheism" it means the widely prevailing, deeply reverent acceptance of the revelations made of Himself in nature, in all life, as sufficient and which regards attempts to penetrate the veil He has hung between, to analyze, define, measure or humanize Him, as little short of blasphemy, then it applies an insipid word to a condition its bigotry abhors. It attributes this condition to the influence of our public schools it pays unwitting tribute to their help in promoting greater intelligence, truer conceptions and higher ideals; in developing that "new faith," whose coming Lowell foresaw, which "Sees God rather in the strenuous doubt Than in the creed held as an infant's hand Holds purposeless what's placed therein."

Pottawatomie and Kickapoo.

Congressman Coarles Curtis has just introduced a bill in congress, which, if it becomes a law, will have the effect of abolishing the Pottawatomie, Kickapoo and other small Indian reservations in Jackson, Brown and Doniphan counties this state. The bill provides for the sale of all those lands left to various Indian heirs. The present law provides that the land shall remain the property of the heirs, and that the revenue derived from it shall be distributed by the government to the owners. The new bill is said to be the result of a suggestion of Secretary Hitchcock of the Interior department, and will put an end to the trouble attendant upon the distribution of a small annual revenue. The bill will also give white settlers a chance to purchase the rich lands in the reservations, and it will only be a question of time until the reservations will be abolished.—Horton (Kas.) Commercial.

What We Have.

We have a Peret without any cage,
A Hunt with nothing to chase,
A Kreek without any crosses,
A Carr that never comes late;
A Payne that is very smart,
A Frye that's nothing slack,
A Price that's not very high,
And a Smith that is not black.
—High School Pantagraph.

A Martio that likes a lark,
A Bridge that is rather frail,
A Ball that's not very round,
A Carroll that is really sweet,
A Castle that sits on a hill,
A Coleman that never shovels coal,
A Graham that's not porkish,
A Greene that is really white,
A King that cannot rule,
A Curry that never gets "licked,"
A Partridge that's very shy,
A Cook that never gets burned,
A York that has no duke,
A Furman that never wears fur,
A Sawyer that never saws.

—John Enox and family, of St. Joseph, Frank Enox and wife, of Bedford, Iowa, and Charley Bots and wife, of St. Joseph, have all been here the past week, at the bedside of their father, Uncle Isaac Enox, who has been very ill.

THE ANNUAL ASH HEAP.

The Record of Fires Occurring in Holt County During the Year 1901.

The fire losses for 1901 in Holt county, while not so large as in some years, they were larger than those of 1900. The losses by fire in the United States during the year 1901, was, in round numbers, \$160,000,000. It is appalling to contemplate so vast a property waste. Parallel with this is the fact that quite a number of fire insurance companies went out of business during the year, the business being an unprofitable use of capital. The following is our record of losses by fire in Holt county during the year 1901:

Bennett, Mrs. Jesse; residence, Forest City, May 6; total loss.
Baer, N. F.; tenement house southeast of Mound City; July 22; total loss.
Box car at Bigelow, used as repair shop by railroad company, December 17th.

Chandler, Dr.; barn at Forest City, June 3rd; total loss. His four-year-old son was also burned to death.
Christenson, E. K.; Hickory township; barn, June 1; total loss: farm implements, etc.

Cropp, Mrs. E. G.; residence, store and stock of merchandise, in Richville, October 18; total loss.
Craig store buildings; loss, \$12,500, December 27. The losers were: R. M. Williams, building and stock; J. H. Riffe, building and jewelry stock; I. O. O. F. building damaged; Wickiser & Busch, butchers; Charles Redmon, barber shop; McCandlish warehouses and stock.

Decker, Mrs. F.; residence east of Mound City, October 28; total loss.
Excelsior Mills at Forest City, damaged April 30.

Elliott, J. J.; tenement house near Mound City, June 14; total loss.
Evans, Harvey; residence in Oregon, damaged December 3rd.

Flickinger, Rev.; residence in Sharp's Grove, totally destroyed October 31st. Mrs. F. was badly burned.

Howell House, Oregon; damaged January 31.
Hadden, Frank; residence in Mound City, May 19.

Hiles, H. A.; bakery in Maitland; damaged August 4.
Isley, John; residence near Craig; badly damaged February 11.

Kelley, James; residence northeast of Oregon; slightly damaged August 14.
Marshall, Elliott; residence on farm southeast of Oregon, January 7th; total loss.

Miller, John H.; hay barn and two graneries with contents, southeast of Mound City, July 12; total loss.
Presbyterian church at Craig; damaged February 10.

Pump house at Maitland; totally destroyed August 6.
Portis, R.; residence in Mound City, damaged February 6.

Riley, William; residence in Maitland, damaged July 31.
Stephenson, J. W.; residence in Monarch district; totally destroyed February 13.

Stephenson, Sterl; residence and outbuildings, southeast of Oregon, July 7; total loss.
Shull, William; residence in Hickory township, badly damaged July 13.

Sharp, William; farm house near Craig, November 21; total loss.
VanHorn, Mrs. Matt; residence, barn and three head of horses, in Mound City, November 23.

Just To Be.

Just to be tender, just to be true;
Just to be glad the whole day through;
Just to be merciful, just to be mild;
Just to be trustful, as a child;
Just to be gentle, kind and sweet;
Just to be helpful with willing feet;
Just to be cheery when things go wrong;
Just to drive sadness away with a song.
Whether the hour is dark or bright,
Just to be loyal to God and Right.

Letter List.

The following letters remain uncalled for in the post office at Oregon, Mo., for the week ending February 7, 1902:
Maude Ferguson,
Julia Metcalf, letter and package.
Mary Story.
Parties calling for above will please say, "advertised."
—Tom Curry Postmaster.

—The Methodist Episcopal church at Bigelow, will be dedicated at the Sabbath morning service of February 16th. Rev. O. S. Middleton, the presiding elder, preaching the sermon. No church debt is to be raised. There will be preaching on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, followed by quarterly conference, and also at 7:30 p. m. All are cordially invited to be present by the pastor, Rev. T. A. Windsor.

NOW READY FOR BUSINESS.

The Bank of Bigelow Opens its Doors for a General Banking Business.

It is said that "delays are dangerous," but old laws some times prove no good. It has proven so in this case of establishing and opening the bank at Bigelow. In October last the necessary stock of \$10,000 was subscribed by the business men and some farmers at that place, and steps at once were taken to put up a suitable building, and while the building was being erected, the necessary safes, vault doors, etc., would be ordered and delivered, hence no delay experienced. But it proved the other way. The building was put up, but the safes, etc., failed to come to hand, and did not until last week having been on the road some six weeks from Cincinnati.

However, everything is at hand and the bank, the first in the history of this little city, opened for business Monday of this week, February 3, 1902, with the following officers: President, A. W. Chuning; Vice-president, John C. Hinkle; Secretary, T. O. Davis; Cashier, George Poynter.

The opening of this institution will prove a great convenience to the people of Bigelow, Minton and Northern Forest townships. Heretofore they have been compelled to go to Mound City or Forest City to do that character of business.

Mr. Poynter, the cashier, is one of Holt county's very best and most worthy young men. He was born in Andrew county, not far from the Buchanan county line. He is the son of W. M., "B" Poynter, and grandson of Judge W. H. Poynter, who served on the county bench from 1878 to 1880. His father formerly resided in Forbes township, but last year disposed of his farm and removed to Schell City, Vernon county, this state. George came with his parents to this county in 1881, and on finishing the district school, entered the Oregon High School in '97-8. He then entered the Citizens' bank of this city, and took a thorough bank course under the tutelage of Cashier Care J. Hunt. This training qualifies him in the highest degree to fill the position he now occupies in the new bank at Bigelow. Watching his manly and every day course in life during all these years, we feel no hesitancy whatever in saying to the people of that section of our county, that they will find him a most thorough gentleman, and magnificently equipped to fill the duties that will come to him as cashier of the Bank of Bigelow.

The Imperial Band Bell Ringers.

This company presents one of the most effective musical combinations now before the public, comprising two complete organizations—a bell quintette, and a mandolin, banjo and harp club. The artists are of international reputation, and their names are a guarantee of a musically performance. The carillon of bells (10 in number) is the finest that can be procured, having been made in the oldest bell foundry at London, England, and imported at great expense, especially for this company. It is, so far as is known, the only complete set of hand bells in this country. The tenor mandola and cello mandola (or mandocello) enable the company to play unaccompanied string quartets. This company will be at the M. E. church, this Friday evening, February 7th, 1902.

A New Railroad.

We have information that warrants us in stating that the proposed new railroad through this city will be built during the present year. Active work will be commenced early in the spring and it is hoped that the line will be completed before snow flies next winter.

As is generally known, this line will run from Savannah, Mo., to Omaha, Nebraska. It will open up some fine territory in this and adjoining counties that has needed railroad facilities for a long time.

One reason why the line has not been built before now was the disinclination of residents along the proposed route to give right-of-way and extend other encouragement usually expected in such cases.

At present the outlook is more favorable in this respect, as these gentlemen seem willing to extend the aid necessary in case this is done the road will certainly be built.—Atchinson County World.

The snow that has covered Callaway for over a week saves the wheat crop, but is ruinous on the man who is short of water and feed.—Fulton Gazette.

It is related that Rev. W. R. Smith a Baptist minister of Sheldon, 90 years old, died of pneumonia. Realizing that he was about to die, he had his relatives called in, selected a text and preached a sermon with accustomed fervor. Death cut short his "Amen."—Smithville Herald.