

The Holt County Sentinel

50TH YEAR.

OREGON, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1914.

NUMBER 1.

Volume Fifty.

With this issue of THE SENTINEL, it enters upon its half century of continuous publication, its first issue being dated June 30, 1865, and should no misfortune overtake it, it will celebrate its golden jubilee in May, 1915.

The present management, in whose hands the paper has been for the past 31 years, has at this time little to say of the long life of THE SENTINEL. When it reaches its full 50th year, it may have much to say, but at this time we can only refer to the remarkable fact that a country newspaper can survive the trials and vicissitudes of publication for 49 years, and still be alive to conditions, with prompt weekly heralding of the weekly events as it enters upon its 50th year.

THE SENTINEL boasts the fact that it is the second oldest Republican newspaper in this entire section of the state—the Atchison County Journal being our senior by some 20 months.

We still have upon our list a few subscribers who were among the very first, who went upon the roll at the very first issue—but the largest majority of these have gone to their final reward, the last of these was the late Jonas Whitmer.

During all these years THE SENTINEL has labored to serve its people. Through the ups and downs of all these years it has represented and aided them, how well is best demonstrated by its large list of subscribers—and, better still, as its friends.

So we wish you, each and every one of our friends—to not only be as close to us as in former years, but by writing us whenever occasion permits, come even closer.

We trust the proprietors, each and every employee, and each and every subscriber, may be spared that we may all join in celebrating the golden jubilee of THE SENTINEL.

Rural Credits.

The sub-committee of the Senate and House Committees on Banking and Currency under the leadership of Senator Hollis, of New Hampshire, has for several weeks been attempting to perfect an administration bill to provide for the establishment of a system of farmer's banks to furnish rural credits. The measure is intended to make it possible for the farmer to raise money on his land and buildings under conditions as favorable as those now enjoyed by borrowers who have access to urban banking institutions.

It is estimated that \$3,000,000,000 are invested in mortgages on farms in the United States and for this money the farmers are paying from 5 to 20 per cent. The mortgage is usually for a short term and every few years the farmer must arrange for a new loan. The bill which Senator Hollis will report will aim to eliminate these frequent renewals, cut out the expense of the middle man and enhance the value of farm mortgages by making them liquid assets.

It is deemed prudent for the present to restrict the loans to land and farm property and not include crops, or livestock in which there is an element of hazard. The organization of local banks in rural communities will be authorized. These banks are to accept no deposits. By the terms of the proposed measure local banks and associations will be permitted to accept mortgages on long terms. The maximum term will be 35 years, with a provision for amortization. Thus the farmer who mortgages his farm to a rural bank will make annual interest payments at the prevailing rate, probably not over 6 per cent, and will pay in addition one or one and a half per cent toward the reduction of the principal. He will not be affected by the changing conditions of the money market nor harassed by frequent renewals of his mortgage. To make it possible for the farmer to secure money at rates as reasonable as those enjoyed by other interests with excellent security, some way of immediate realization on the mortgages had to be devised.

The administration bill, therefore, will provide for the establishment of regional banks in large money centers. These regional banks will purchase the mortgages from rural banks or mortgage loan associations and issue bonds secured by the mortgages. The bonds will bear interest 1 per cent less than the mortgages. For example, if a regional bank acquires mortgages which bear interest at 5 per cent, the bonds issued against them will bear 4 per cent. The profit of 1 per cent will be used for paying the running expenses of the bank. Both mortgages and bonds will be exempt from taxation. While the national government will not guarantee either the mortgages or bonds it will exercise supervision over the regional banks.

April Weather.

The coldest April day ever recorded here was 5 degrees on the 4th in 1859. The coldest April ever experienced here was in 1857. The lowest temperature was 9 degrees and the highest was 67. The mean for the month was 37.7 degrees, or 8.2 degrees below the next lowest in 1862. Only 1.05 inches of rain fell during the month. There was 2 inches of snow, part of which fell on the 17th. On that day many farmers were cutting elm trees, the buds of which were nearly open, for cattle to browse on. Feed was scarce; grass began to grow the last of the month. Crab apple trees, which are usually in bloom the last week in April, did not begin to bloom until the 21st of the following May. Other cold Aprils were in 1862, 1864, 1873, 1874, 1875.

April, 1914, came and went, with an exactly normal temperature, which is 53 degrees; the coldest day was 22 degrees and the hottest was 90 degrees on the 17th. We had a good frost on the night of the 8th.

The rainfall for April, 1914, was 1.63 inches which is 1.57 inches below the normal. Thus far we are short 3.12 inches for the first four months of the year 1914. The lightest April fall for the month in the past 29 years was in 1912—1.18 inches, and the heaviest was 6.09 inches in 1904.

We had slight furies of snow on the 8th.

Easter, which came on the 12th, was a beautiful day, the maximum temperature being 62 degrees and the minimum, 29 degrees.

The extremes for the month were:

Max.	Min.
16.....82	4.....31
17.....90	8.....22
21.....85	9.....24
25.....80	11.....30
29.....82	12.....29

Mean maximum, 64.
Mean minimum, 42.
Mean, 53.

Rainfall, 1.63; greatest in 24 hours, .56 inches on the 23d.

Slight snow furies on the 8th.

The rainfall at Mound City was 1.19 inches.

The Missouri river has been unusually low for the month. On the 28th it was only 2.2 feet above low water mark at the St. Joseph bridge.

Much corn had been planted throughout the county during the last ten days of the month.

The April rainfall and snowfall for April for the past 29 years has been: Normal rainfall, 3.59 inches.

Rainfall.	Snowfall.
Inches.	Inches.
1865.....3.37	1889.....2.90
1866.....3.08	1892.....2.50
1867.....4.18	1894......10
1868.....2.12	1895......30
1869.....3.31	1899.....3.70
1870.....4.09	1900......10
1871.....4.08	1901.....2.10
1872.....2.30	1902.....1.00
1873.....1.89	1903......70
1874.....6.09	1904.....2.50
1875.....3.18	1905.....1.05
1876.....3.10	1906.....Trace
1877.....4.03	1907.....Trace
1878.....1.97	1908.....Trace
1879.....3.25	1909.....Trace
1880.....1.42	1910.....Trace
1881.....3.82	1911.....None
1882.....1.18	1912.....1.75
1883.....2.56	1913.....None
1884.....1.63	1914.....None

When Crops Are Good.

Wall street has been cheered by a message which Ralph Van Vlieten, vice-president of the Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago, recently brought to New York. Mr. Van Vlieten's message presaged prosperity and gave promise of renewed good times. Here it is:

"Crop prospects in the winter wheat states are much above the average and are about as promising as they have ever been at this season of the year; business in the West shows distinct signs of picking up."

Of course business picks up when the crop prospects are good. If nothing untoward occurs to damage the crops, if the realization bears out the prospect, business will pick up throughout the nation.

This mighty nation has many avenues of activity, many fields of endeavor, but the greatest of these is its farms. When the crops are good the farmer has money to spend and he spends it. When he spends it there is money enough for everybody. Industry awakens; trade revives; the railroads prosper; everything moves upward.

The iron and steel trade may be the industrial barometer, but the farm is more than that. The crops do not measure prosperity but cause it. When the farmer wears his big, contented, prosperous smile, the entire nation smiles happily, contentedly and prosperously. There is nothing so smile-provoking as a good year in the fields.

BACK FROM THE SOUTHLAND.

W. H. Richards Tells of His Trip to the National Drainage Congress.

Mr. Richards, who was one of the delegates from Missouri to the National Drainage Congress, which met at Savannah, Ga., April 22-25, returned home April 28, and feels every way benefited by having attended the congress, coming as he did in personal touch with some of the most prominent advocates of drainage in the country. The program was an elaborate one in every feature, both as to subjects discussed, and elaborateness in entertainment. The program included such subjects as "Relation of the Citizen to Land Reclamation," "Control of Mississippi Floods Essential to a Protection of Our Largest Drainage Unit," "Land Drainage in Its Relation to General Agricultural Development," "What Drainage Reclamation Has Done for the State of Missouri," "Certain Fundamental Factors in Drainage," "Reclamation, an Obligation of the Government," "What Shall We Do with Our Large Swamps?" "Malaria Investigations in the United States," "Drainage in Its Influence on Commercial Development." Many other important subjects were discussed, and the various topics before the congress were ably discussed by some of the ablest men of our country who are enthusiasts on the subject of drainage.

The above indicates the wide range of the purpose and object of the National Drainage Congress. Mr. Richards says:

"E. J. Watson, of Columbia, S. C., was elected as the president of the congress for the ensuing year. An adjourned or special session of the congress will be held at San Francisco during the exposition. The next annual meeting will be held in Washington, D. C.

From estimates and the least obtainable data, there is an area of over 80,000,000 acres of land in the United States subject to overflow, or inundation and rendered unfit for successful cultivation, an area almost equal in extent of one acre per capita of the population and sufficient, if entirely reclaimed to produce sufficient food stuffs for the support of the nation.

This alone is not the only result to be obtained by national reclamation, which is the paramount question, but second and of almost equal importance, the stamping out and eradication of disease, the principal of which is malaria. The work of the congress in the past has been sufficient to enlist the support of President Woodrow Wilson, and to induce Hon. Champ Clark, of Missouri, of the House of Representatives, to introduce a bill inciting the purpose and object sought, and a companion bill to be introduced in the Senate by Senator John Sharp Williams, both of which are now pending. The object is not so much to secure government aid as to secure government co-operation; the subject, from the fact that the federal government retains control of the rivers, being interstate, and one which the States cannot control; the federal authorities will be asked to take charge of and control the floods of the rivers over which it retains control, leaving to the States the matter of providing ways and means for taking charge of and caring for local conditions.

There are provisions in the bill for the advancement, by the federal government of the money to pay for costs of reclamation, the bonds of the districts or interests, being taken at 4 per cent, and to be repaid in the same manner as bonds now issued for drainage work are paid, by taxation of the land specially benefited.

Savannah, and its citizens surely upheld all the traditions of the Southland for hospitality.

Tyber is the beach resort of the city; the train of eight coaches was filled, standing room only, besides hundreds went by auto. Upon our arrival, we found the immense pavilion, 100 feet in width by some 600 feet in length, in which were five rows of tables extending the full length, loaded with everything that one would wish for a lunch, the succulent crab, lobster, crabfoot, radishes, onions, lettuce, dressings, French, German and of every other nationality, and although this State of Georgia has state-wide prohibition, there was enough of the liquid that made "Milwaukee famous" on hand to float a small-sized ship, and the Governor of North Carolina had no occasion to remark to the Governor of South Carolina that there was too extended a period between drinks, and the

Governor of Florida and the Governor of Georgia did not seem to be worrying about the enforcement of the law.

After about two hours of feasting and watching the white caps of the incoming tide, the train conveyed the crowd down to Fort Screven, where the review of troops was witnessed, the governor's salute of seventeen guns fired; after this came the inspection of the fort, the immense coast defense guns, the one about fifty feet in length throwing a 500-pound projectile a distance of thirteen miles, and we can readily imagine what would happen to Jones if he was there when it arrived. The other great guns are of the disappearing type, being hoisted by machinery, and immediately disappearing after the shot is fired.

These guns are loaded and sighted before being hoisted: this is done by telephone from the sighting tower, the men who load the guns, who work the hoisting machinery, and who fire them are in a pit nearly twenty feet deep, behind the walls of concrete and sand banks in front. The crowd remained at Fort Screven for the firing of the "Sunset Gun," then proceeded on its return to the city.

The next entertainment provided was a "Street Fair and Carnival." The Street Fair, as to the daylight portion of the program, was for the prize of the best decorated automobile: the first prize in this was won by the car of the Georgia Central railroad. Entirely covered with cotton, with American Beauty roses, for decorations, the large car, contained eight of the most beautiful young ladies of Savannah, dressed in white in banks of American Beauties waving silken flags, of the Stars and Stripes, they were perfect hours. Second prize was won by the Ford Co.; the decoration being an ancient mill of Holland, all complete, all decorations were fine, very fine, showing that much time as well as money had been spent on this. Next was all of the military of Savannah, the cavalry and infantry from Fort Screven, then came the fire ladders of the town, everything shining even down to the head of the last brass tack. Some idea of the magnitude of the display may be gained by knowing that the procession was an hour and a half passing the De Soto hotel.

The show at night was a street dance, chaperoned by 40 colonial dances. This was an innovation for the old town, and everybody and everybody else wanted to see this, with the result that the street in which the dance was to be held was crowded, packed and jammed and all the streets connecting all pushing and craning and crowding, the police in vain trying to maintain an open space until finally the pressure from the crowd became so great that, like water flowing over a dam the crowd poured into the street completely jamming it from curb to curb. After some difficulty the band was rescued in sections and by starting some music up the side streets and other devices and ruses the crowd was finally scattered so that about 11 o'clock the dance began, about two hundred couples participating. The writer is not upon the "Steps" but the different movements were pointed out as the Tango, Turkey Trot, Bunny-Hugging, Hesitation, Texas Tommy, and a few others.

It is understood that there was no rowdiness, it was simply a great big crowd all good-natured, each individual trying to get to the front, and estimated by the Savannah papers at 25,000 or more, but we are inclined to think the papers were in error, for I am confident there were 25,000 in the block where I stood and there were others, in fact, think that substantially the whole population of Savannah was on the streets that night. It was the worst jam I ever saw, and was on the grounds of the Chicago Day World's Fair when there was a 1,000,000 crowd. There was also a dance on at the De Soto hotel, in the large dining room.

This city will rank with any city in the United States for beauty, and sure, for it is a picture; parks and resting places everywhere, palms, magnolias, oaks, maples, plants of all kinds, streets finely and smoothly paved, all so well kept, and above all, everything so cleanly. It is not permissible to dump anything on the street or into an alley, all are equally well kept; you can find more refuse on any half block of our northern cities than you will find on twenty blocks of this city of Savannah; the people here are strong on the line of erecting monuments to the memory of distinguished dead. There is a grand one to Oglethorpe, Governor of the Colony of Georgia, and near by is an immense block of gray granite, rough and unshewn, weighing probably twenty tons, and on a bronze medal-

ion, thereon is inscribed:

"Tomo-Chi-Chi."
"The Mico of the Yamacraws,"
"the companion of Oglethorpe,"
"and the friend and ally"
"of the Colony of Georgia,"
"Colonial Dames of America,"
"1733."
1899."

It is unique, will last for centuries, will remind all generations that there was at least one good "Live Indian." Savannah has a good harbor, and at this time was to be seen a sailing vessel from Spain, full masted and sail-rigged, loading oak staves for wine casks; there are few such vessels on the waters now; the city enjoys also the distinction of having the second largest cotton market in the United States, and there are acres and acres of cotton warehouses, but in this it seems they are making a mistake, the factories should also be there, taking their lesson from Birmingham, Ala.

This is now taking too much space, but cannot close without a short comment on the country. Leaving St. Joseph, go over the Burlington to St. Louis; to Columbus, Ga., over Illinois Central; to Savannah; over Central of Georgia; this takes you into and through parts of Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, seven states. Immediately after starting Southward from St. Louis, the shading of the soil begins to change from black to a lighter or grayish color, gradually shading into red, grasses begin to get scarcer, timber begins changing, until finally the red soils and pine lands are reached; as the soils and grasses and timbers shade out, so does agriculture, fields get smaller, methods more primitive, until the old log cabin, the ox team and cart, the one-horse team and one man in a field, and many of the fields about the size of the ordinary feed lot of a prosperous Missouri farmer; the old-fashioned worm fence of rails, a few discouraged hogs, and cows, that from appearance have not had a square meal since their birth. The view is one constant panorama of pine forest, and farming in a small way; the one thrilling feature being the Brush Creek high bridge, 201 feet above the ground, and one feels how good it is to be near the earth when looking out of the window you cannot see rail or tie.

The development that is heard of in the South is not so much in her agriculture as in mines and mills, but am not so certain that the denuding of the lands of timber can properly be called development; some sort of use in an agricultural way should be and no doubt will in time, be found for these lands; there are also millions of acres of wet lands, that can be reclaimed, the State of Georgia alone having more than 2,000,000 acres of swamp and marsh.

The result of a trip of this kind is to make one feel proud of Old Missouri, for retiring from the South, after the eye has rested on barren red hills, or pine lands, green at the top, and brown or black underneath as whether the fire has run through it or not, as you get into Kentucky and Illinois on the east of the Mississippi, the freshness and verdure is everywhere to be seen, and green looks good and from Hannibal west to St. Joseph, if it was up to me to sustain a large number of people, I would not give the strip of land visible from the car window across Missouri, for a strip of equal width, for a thousand miles along the railroad from Savannah, and would not give one good 640 acres of good old black Missouri soil for a township of the red of Georgia or Alabama; there are other things in other places, but not so many of them and when it is all sized up, we have the most of them."

Feeders to Cost Less.

Out of all this foreign beef muddle the one unanimous sentiment in market circles seems to be that from now on feeder cattle must cost less. The corn feeder cannot hope to compete with free beef and pay the prices he has been paying in recent years for his stock cattle. He must get them cheaper either by producing them himself or paying less for them when he buys them on the market. This means that the western stock grower must prepare to accept lower prices for his grass fed steers or he must finish his cattle at home before marketing. In fact, the whole beef producing industry must be readjusted to meet the changed conditions. Free beef does not necessarily mean that the consumer is going to get cheaper beef, but it undoubtedly means that the producer must grow his beef at a smaller cost or go broke. In the slang of the day it looks very much as if the producer was "the goat."—Omaha Drivers' Journal-Stockman.

Jonas Whitmer.

The death of Jonas Whitmer, of Mound City, which occurred in St. Joseph, Wednesday evening of last week, April 29th, is not merely the loss sustained by an unusually extensive circle of friends and acquaintances. It falls as a blow upon the whole county, depriving it of one of its most honored and highly respected citizens. No man was better or more favorably known, and no man was more highly esteemed, beloved, trusted and appreciated than Jonas Whitmer. In business pursuits—that of farm life, in his earlier struggles, he was the acme of honesty; in private life a man of the highest type of morality and noble and edifying things and thought; in church affairs he was active and sincere; in politics he was an unflinching Republican, and while standing for its principles he never wavered from what he considered to be right and to be the best interests of the people; he was a fast and consistent friend, lovable in disposition and character.

The aged wife, who shared with the toils and privations of a pioneer's life, has lost a true and devoted husband, the church a faithful and earnest worker, and Holt county a highly respected citizen. In the family he was all that could be expected of such a man. His married life was beautiful in mutual sympathy, devotion and loyalty. The union was such as is ordered by Heaven and is a blessing to mankind. His labors on earth are ended, but his influence will continue to help others in the memory of his beautiful and holy life.

Jonas Whitmer was born in Miami county, Ohio, September 15, 1842, and died in St. Joseph, April 29th, 1914, aged 71 years, 7 months and 14 days. He was raised on a farm and attended the common schools of his county, and on the coming on of the Civil war he enlisted as a Union soldier as a private in Company B., 94th Ohio Infantry, serving three years, being mustered out as first sergeant of his company, going to the sea with Sherman, with the 14th army corps.

In 1866 he came to Holt county, and followed farming, and also taught school; in due time he became the owner of many acres in the Squaw Creek district. He taught many different schools in Holt and Atchison counties, and had charge at different terms of the Culp and the old Poynter schools in Southern Holt.

Some fifteen years ago, he retired from active farm life and located in Mound City, where he has lived a quiet, unpretentious life. Religiously, he was an earnest, zealous member of the M. E. church, and was associated with Methodism of our county since 1885, and was regarded as one of the pillars of that church, and his activities in church work only ceased with the coming of his late affliction. He served in all church positions and was dearly beloved by all his church associates. His church work was ever active and substantial.

His kindly heart was responsive to the needs of the unfortunate, and he helped the young man and young woman to secure an education, or along business lines.

He served for many years as president of the Holt County Farmers' Mutual Insurance Companies, and his wise council and conservative judgment was ever looked to by his associates. It was his ambition while president to see the company reach its million in risks—and before he retired it had reached its \$1,500,000; then \$2,250,000.

In 1882, Mr. Whitmer was elected as Holt county's representative in the 32d general assembly, and was assigned to some of the most important legislative committees, and was ever found in his seat on roll call.

March 1, 1874, he was united in marriage to Miss Jane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Pollock, by the Rev. S. W. Thornton, who with two foster children survive. He is also survived by one brother and a number of nephews and nieces. Two children were born to them, but these preceded him to the Beyond in infancy.

Beautiful and impressive funeral services were held from the Mound City M. E. church, Saturday afternoon last, May 2d, the funeral sermon being delivered by Rev. W. H. Christy, of Maryville, assisted by the pastor, Rev. J. H. Walker; and Rev. Samuel Robinson, of Westboro. The interment was in Mount Hope cemetery.

They Got Caught.

Four Carroll County men have pleaded guilty to tax dodging before Frank P. Divilbiss, circuit judge. Each was fined \$200. As part of the penalty they added a total of \$124,000 to their assessments by asking the county board of equalization to raise them that amount. Those who were fined and the amounts they added to their assessments were: Peter Condon, farmer, \$42,000; David Standley, money lender, \$49,000; Thomas Galaher, farmer, \$11,000; John Forsythe, banker, \$22,000.