

LAS VEGAS FREE PRESS

An Evening Daily.

J. A. CARRUTH, PUBLISHER.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
ONE YEAR.....\$6.00
SIX MONTHS..... 3.00
PER WEEK..... .15
In advance.

Entered at the post office at East Las Vegas for transmission as second class mail matter.

SATURDAY, April 2, 1892.

REPUBLICAN TICKET.

For Mayor:

J. M. CUNNINGHAM.

For Town Trustees:

SENECA KLINE.

THERON CRISPELL.

For Marshal:

T. F. CLAY.

For Recorder:

W. H. KELLY.

ANOTHER CITIZEN SPEAKS.

It is not customary in time of war to take counsel of the enemy, and follow his advice in planning and conducting a campaign. Such a course would be certain destruction, and the very idea of it is so repugnant to all sense of propriety, that one who even suggests it, is straightway branded as a traitor. The article of "Citizen" in the Optic of the 23d would convey the idea that he was a friend of the town of Las Vegas, and earnestly seeking to further its interest. This would be well were it not coupled with the approval of Mr. Millheiser's idea, and in furtherance of Mr. Millheiser's schemes to entrap the town in such a position as to smooth his pathway to success.

Mr. Millheiser is an open and avowed enemy of the town of Las Vegas, and really the only one of its enemies who has had the manliness to stand out and fight uncovered. He has never either had or expressed any interest in the town, except in so far as by the expression of that interest he might induce the town to aid him and his associates in appropriating the entire grant to themselves. His suit now pending in the district court of this county, seeks to recover for the individual grant claimants every foot of land within its exterior boundaries. The people have not yet forgotten the excitement occasioned when it was learned that even the town property was coveted by him, and that each citizen, whose title to his town lot and home was as secure as any title could be, would nevertheless be required to employ counsel and take upon himself the burden of defending it against this unwarranted attack. From the operation of this suit Mr. Millheiser has strenuously refused to exempt or except a single foot of property, notwithstanding the repeated entreaties made to have him do so.

It seems strange, then, that one who has the welfare of the town at heart, and is really its friend, as "Citizen" would have us believe, could at the same time urge the people of the town to fall into the arms of this enemy by accepting and carrying out the plan that he suggests. We can not but believe that if "Citizen" had signed his name to the communication, we would readily discover something wrong in his composition, either by his owning an interest in the grant and claiming under the individual grantees, or some ulterior purpose to be subserved in connection with Mr. Millheiser.

It would, indeed, be a great pity that the order of things should be changed; that the custom of a few men owning the whole territory should be broken in upon by "the government doling out to settlers one hundred and sixty acre tracts." It would be so much better to parcel this princely domain out among a select few, the few being prominent citizens and, therefore, so much better than the poor settler. The few, too, by making cattle ranches about the town, and holding their interest at extravagant prices would no doubt, in the estimation of "Citizen," contribute much more to the prosperity of the town than the settler upon a hundred and sixty acres. His argument is but the old idea that the good things of this world are to be divided up among a very few, and the balance deprived of them altogether.

What this community wants above all things, we think, is the settling up of the lands of the Las Vegas grant, and 99 per cent of the disinterested persons residing upon it believe that the United States is the agency best adapted to this purpose. It has all the machinery and its edict is by the people regarded as law. Through it the lands are bound to be distributed without partiality or favoritism, and the poor stand upon an equal footing with the rich. If these lands are settled up in tracts of 160 acres, as they will be when the grant is thrown open to settlement, who would not prefer to trust to the combined capital and energy of the numerous settlers to develop and put water upon them rather than to the private means of the aristocratic few? If settled up, too, in this way, who is so blind as not to see the thousand-fold greater advantages the town would thus derive from it? The railroad would then come not because of the large bonus it would receive directly from the town, but because there could then be something to come or in the business of the town and the settled condition of the country into or through which it would pass. We would certainly get a railroad in this manner much earlier than we could possibly hope to obtain one by the litigation which "Citizen" suggests. If large holdings of land are essential to great prosperity, why is it that grant-cursed New Mexico has lagged so far behind? Colorado and other states in the arid region had but few, if any, grants compared to our territory. Their lands were all doled out by the government in 160 acre tracts, and yet their development has been marvelous. At our very doors, even, those sections are settling up most rapidly where the largest areas of government land are to be found.

Hitherto, Mr. Millheiser and his coadjutors have ridiculed the idea of the town being able to sell and dispose of the lands of the grant, even though it should obtain a decision in its favor. They have always maintained that the town could not manage the grant, and that if, after getting it, it attempted to do so, its course would be fraught with almost endless contention.

Why, then, this change of heart now, since the government has stepped in, and why this unbounded love of Mr. Millheiser for the town, and of "Citizen" for Millheiser, that his advice and direction is to be pursued? We think the reason is but too apparent! If Millheiser can inveigle the town into a fight with the government, and the town gets from the government the entire area of the grant, it would be so much easier for him afterwards to bring suit against the town, and harass it into the settlement or compromise which so long has been the burden of the enemy's song. It is quite apparent that Millheiser and his associates do not court any fight with the government, for he and they well know that as against the government his claim would not for a moment be tolerated. The claim of the town of Las Vegas he knows to be the strong claim, and the only claim that can, with any prospect of success, contest with the government for the entire area of the grant. He and his friends are shrewd enough to see that with the government there will be no compromise, and no surrender of its rights, except by a judgment of the highest court in the land. But it is not so with the town of Las Vegas. While the government is strong and tenacious of its rights, the town is weak and compromising. A compromise can only be secured through the town, and, to be of any value to the individual claimants, the town must first recover the whole grant. Therefore, Millheiser reasons, if I can cunningly induce the town to make this fight for me, and get this land away from the government, I will secure an advantage I can not otherwise gain.

Heretofore, when the town was claiming against him alone, there was no town; now, however, when such an institution can be of service to him, he is willing to admit its existence, and invites it to unite with him.

But suppose we join hands with Millheiser, as proposed, and claim from the government the whole grant, what will be the result? Several years would elapse before the question of area would be finally determined by the supreme court of the United States, and then many more

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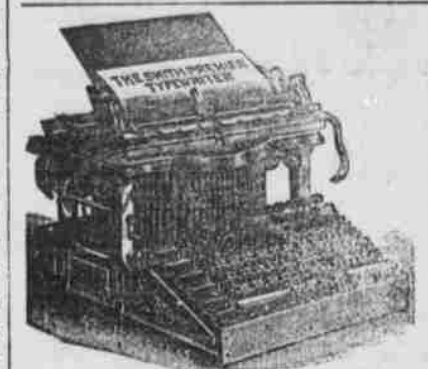
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years before the individual claimants are disposed of. Meantime, the town would become dwarfed and sicken, and perchance die. If the community is willing to invite this condition of things, we know of no better way to accomplish it than to follow the advice of Millheiser and "Citizen." But if, on the contrary, we desire peace and immediate prosperity, let the government step into the shoes of the town, as it has already decided to do, and take upon itself in future the whole burden of the town's defense; let Millheiser & Co. expend their money and energy in litigation with the government, and leave us wholly at rest. Meanwhile, the reserve will be made, the lands thrown open to settlement, and settlers will come to possess them. A suit against the government would occasion no

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suspension of its action, as would a suit against the town. Every benefit that a good title can give would be ours, and that forthwith, for, behind all, the power of sovereignty stands and furnishes protection.

Would the paltry consideration the town would eventually receive from its sale of the grant lands compensate it for the delay and strife undergone to obtain them? We think not, and, therefore, support the decision already given.

ANOTHER CITIZEN.

Holman, the great cheese parer and objector, has mistaken the sound of the grumbling of those affected by the adoption of his five cent ideas of economy by the house for the buzzing of the presidential bee. Poor old man!

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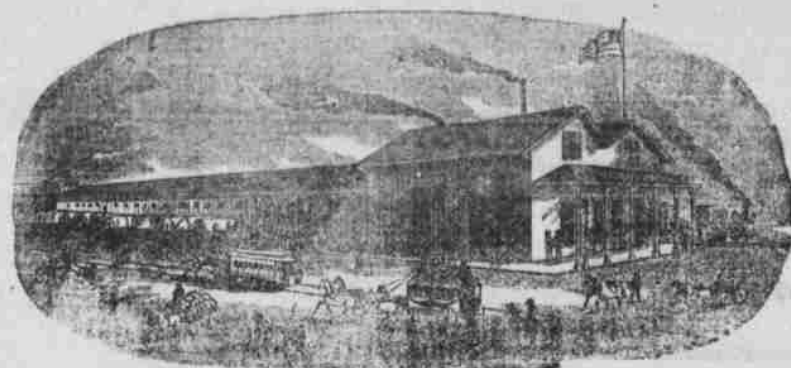
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