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ALLEN T. BIRD, Managing Editor.
DANE D. BIRD, Business Manager.

Statehood Ticket

For Delegate to Congress—
CHARLES F. AINSWORTH

Republican District Ticket

For Joint Councilman—
E. W. DICKERMAN.

Hon. Chas. F. Ainsworth

the Statehood Candidate for Congress, will discuss the issues of the day before the people of Santa Cruz county, at Nogales, the time and place to be announced later.

WILL NOT BEAR ANALYSIS.

Here is one reason which alone, we are quite sure, will be sufficient for ninety-ninths of the taxpayers of this territory. It is the difference between the tax rate of Arizona and that of New Mexico.

The territorial tax rate of New Mexico last year was \$1.50. The territorial tax rate of Arizona at the same time was .95. (It will be somewhat lower this year.) We presume, though it is a violent presumption, that the money raised by the New Mexican rate was economically and judiciously expended for the support of the territorial institutions. We are certain that this money raised by our tax rate was so spent.—Bisbee Review.

Like all the rest of the assumptions of the anti-statehood newspapers the foregoing from the Review, which is going the rounds of the anti-statehood press, will not bear analysis and consideration in the light of cold facts.

In the first place it is but two or three years since the territorial tax rate in Arizona was \$1.50, exactly the same as in New Mexico. At that time the assessment rolls of the two territories were likewise very similar in their footings. Arizona showed a total of about forty-two million dollars, and New Mexico about one million more. Since then the action of the territorial board of equalization in raising the assessments of the mines and railroads has greatly increased the total in Arizona, and reduced the rate. That is all there is to that. Without the raises made on the mines and railways the present disparity of which so much is made by the Review, et id omne genus, would have appeared not for them to prate about. Now except in the valuation for taxation of the

mines and railways the assessed valuation of all property in Arizona is very high, while in New Mexico it is very low. Outside of the mines and railways in Arizona the assessed valuation of property ranges from 40 per cent to 60 per cent of its actual value. In New Mexico the assessed valuation of all property is but about 16 1/2 per cent of its actual value. An examination of the census returns for the two territories will bear out this assertion. Here are some of the figures from the census of 1900:

Value of live stock on farms and ranges: Arizona, \$15,545,687; New Mexico, \$31,727,400.

Value of farm lands and buildings: Arizona, \$13,682,960; New Mexico, \$20,888,814.

Total number of farms: Arizona, 5,809; New Mexico, 12,311.

Number of males engaged in agriculture: Arizona, 13,473; New Mexico, 25,947.

Total value of farm products of 1899: Arizona, \$6,997,097; New Mexico, \$10,155,215.

Total expenditure for labor on farms in 1899: Arizona, \$11,152,670; New Mexico, \$12,926,635.

Gross farm income of 1899: Arizona, \$8,111,132; New Mexico, \$12,926,635.

New Mexico ranges thirtieth among the states and territories in total number of farms reporting wheat raised, and Arizona thirty-fifth.

New Mexico ranks forty-fourth in the production of cereals in number of pounds, and Arizona forty-sixth.

New Mexico ranks thirty-seventh in total number of wheat bushels, and Arizona thirty-ninth.

In value of all crops raised in 1899, including vegetables, Arizona with \$2,432,471 worth ranks fiftieth and New Mexico forty-seventh, with \$3,030,299.

The official figures issued by the United States Bureau of Statistics for 1903 show the following:

Wheat production: Arizona, 483,964 bushels, worth \$450,087; New Mexico, 822,701 bushels, worth \$817,026.

Corn production: Arizona, 194,925 bushels, worth \$175,432; New Mexico, 956,088 bushels, worth \$717,516.

Oat production: Arizona, 64,468 bushels, worth \$39,325; New Mexico, 345,147 bushels, worth \$213,891.

Wool production: Arizona, 4,387,500 pounds; New Mexico, 16,250,000 pounds.

Arizona had over a million sheep; New Mexico nearly four millions.

So from the very latest census it is apparent that in all the property enumerated New Mexico exceeds Arizona in valuation by a very large percentage. In farm lands and buildings the excess is nearly 54 per cent. In the number of farms it is 112 per cent. In live stock on farms and ranges it is 106 per cent greater. Taking the two items together (livestock and farms) and the valuations shown give New Mexico an excess of nearly 80 per cent more than Arizona. When those properties are all under one state government there will be one basis for assessment. The state board of equalization will regulate it; and either the basis for the entire state will have to come up to the Arizona basis, or go down to the New Mexico basis. That will be one of the first duties the new state board of equalization will have to perform, and very likely it will be a duty put upon it by constitutional mandate. Like all constitutions the new fundamental law will provide that taxation shall be equal and uniform, and it will put upon the board of equalization it creates the power and duty to adjust valuations in the various counties so they will be equal in all. Should it be raised to the Arizona basis then the total assess-

ment in the New Mexico end of the new state will exceed that in the Arizona end, and the tax rate will decrease so that the total rate will be less even than it is in Arizona now. Should the New Mexico basis be adopted the total taxable valuation of similar properties in Arizona would decrease, but they would continue to bear the same relation to New Mexico valuations as shown by the census returns, and the burden of taxation would be no greater here than there. And there might be one advantage in adoption of the New Mexico basis. It would bring the assessed values of all properties in this end of the new state more near the assessed valuations of the great mines and railways. That might be a great advantage to the ordinary taxpayer; and this is an idea that has not occurred to anyone before now.

In this connection it is not amiss to make mention of the cry heard so frequently, that the people of New Mexico would conspire to put the burdens of taxation upon the Arizona end of the new state. It is strange that anyone with the most ordinary knowledge of government shall be so simple as to believe that. It would be an impossibility, and were it attempted there would be so many safeguards that it could not be successful. In the first place the constitution will provide that taxation shall be equal and uniform. Then that instrument will create a board of equalization upon which body will be imposed the constitutional duty of making taxation equal and uniform. Should that body fail in its duty, it would be the duty then of the aggrieved counties to hale into court the board of equalization, and compel it to perform its duty impartially. But there will be no danger of having to do that. There will be elected to the board high minded men from both ends of the state who will do their duty conscientiously and faithfully.

READERS OF THE OASIS should not fail to read the three platforms of principles now before the electors of Arizona, which are printed side by side upon another page this week. The democratic and republican platforms are as void of issues as was ever a political document of whatever nature, and they were written, evidently, by the same man. The one issue presented positively is that of opposition to statehood, and the two declarations are in the same identical words. Upon the other hand the platform of the statehood party presents issues. It calls attention to evils under which the people of Arizona are suffering and asks Congress to remedy them, until such time as Arizona shall become a state, and it advocates statehood under the conditions proposed by Congress as the best that can be secured, and as necessary to attaining that self government without which no commonwealth is a free American state.



Special Attention
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SOME of the Arizona newspapers are asserting again that Colonel Bird aspires to succeed Governor Kibbey. Colonel Bird has no such aspirations, and is not under consideration for the place. But should he be appointed, within twenty-four hours after he qualified, there would be about three hundred anti-statehood men now in office in Arizona who would be made to walk the plank.

READ the planks on statehood in both the republican and democratic platforms, and guess who wrote them. Was it Mark Smith or Ellinwood? That the same man wrote them both is a safe conclusion.

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