

**SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN.**

THE NEW MEXICAN PRINTING COMPANY, PUBLISHERS.  
MAX. FROST, Editor. JOHN K. STAUFFER, Sec'y-Treas.  
EDWIN F. COARD, City Editor.

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Santa Fe Postoffice

| RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.            |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Daily, per week, by carrier.....  | \$ .20 |
| Daily, per month, by carrier..... | .75    |
| Daily, per month, by mail.....    | .65    |
| Daily, per year, by mail.....     | 7.00   |
| Daily, six months, by mail.....   | 3.75   |
| Weekly, per year.....             | 2.00   |
| Weekly, six months.....           | 1.00   |
| Weekly, per quarter.....          | .75    |

OFFICIAL PAPER OF SANTA FE COUNTY.

The New Mexican is the oldest newspaper in New Mexico. It is sent to every postoffice in the Territory, and has a large and growing circulation among the intelligent and progressive people of the Southwest.



**SHOULD FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF EL PASO.**

El Paso is the largest city in this part of the southwest and is constantly growing in area, in population, in business and in wealth. This must be acknowledged as it is too patent to be ignored. Just now the Pass City seems to be very fortunate in having the right kind of a city administration and the proper man for mayor. It is very refreshing to learn that the tax valuations of city property are truly equalized this year for the first time and this commendable state of affairs is called to the attention of the New Mexico cities where such should also be the case and where it could be accomplished at little cost of time, labor and money. The El Paso Herald gives the situation in an editorial which should be read by every city, official and property owner and resident in the incorporated cities and towns of this territory and by which they should profit and benefit. Says the Herald:

"For the first time in the history of El Paso, valuations for taxation purposes have actually been equalized. The present administration has approached this very difficult problem in a fair and reasonable way, its work has been done in the open, it has a rational explanation for all its acts in reference to taxation, and it deserves and will have the final approval of all citizens who take the trouble to look into the facts.

"At the request of the Herald, the mayor in today's paper makes a comprehensive statement concerning the basis and methods of local taxation. On file at the city hall are the maps, showing the basis of valuation on every lot in the city. Judging by actual sales within a year, the basis on realty is nearer 50 per cent than 60.

"The basis of estimating the value of improvements is eminently fair. The present cost of reproduction, not the original cost, is a fair basis here, just as the present selling value of realty, and not its cost to the owner five years or fifteen years ago, determines the basis of valuations on realty.

"Progressive property owners are with the mayor and council in his determination to equalize valuations to a 60 per cent basis. Although some 2,500 renditions were raised by the council, 1,200 renditions were lowered, showing an honest intention to equalize, and not to make a flat rate increase. The tax rate will be lowered substantially.

Taxpayers who have investigated for themselves have become satisfied that the work of the council has been fairly and wisely done. Those who have not taken the matter up for themselves may be assured that this is the very first time in the city's history that the tax valuations have been made without reference to personal or political favoritism or the caprice of assessors and aldermen. All property in the city will be on an equal basis of valuation and assessment, and any property owner may easily satisfy himself as to what his neighbor's assessment is.

"The council is anxious to have pointed out to it any genuine errors in its work, and will be glad to explain to any property owner just how the tax valuation in his case was arrived at."

**SPEED THE STATEHOOD MOVEMENT.**

The Montoya Republican, published in Montoya, eastern Quay county, is one of the newspapers recently started in that great and growing section of New Mexico. The paper, as its name indicates, is Republican in politics and is on the right side as far as statehood is concerned. In its last issue it comments editorially upon the statehood situation in the following vigorous and plain-spoken manner:

"A review of the situation in our territory shows that the leading Republicans, generally, and many leading Democrats favor the promptest action toward the admission of New Mexico into the sisterhood of states. About six weeks ago, Delegate Andrews, in a statement in the Santa Fe New Mexican, the leading and strongest daily paper in the territory, declared himself as unequivocally in favor of this plan and states that he would immediately, upon the assembling of Congress, introduce a bill for an enabling act that would contain liberal provisions and which he would push to the utmost capacity. Governor Curry has also expressed himself as strongly in favor of the same proposi-

tion and has secured the good will of the President, who promised the governor, during his recent visit with the President on the steamboat en route from Cairo to Memphis that he would do all he could for New Mexico's admission into the Union. Chairman H. O. Bursum, of the Republican Territorial Central Committee, National Committeeman Solomon Luna, Colonel Frost, editor of the New Mexican and many other prominent Republicans have joined the same issue.

"The Democratic leaders are somewhat divided, but the majority favor the plan. Some are against the statehood movement now and want to wait until 1910 or 1912, believing that the Democrats will be sure of carrying the new state then.

"The Republican newspapers of the Territory, one and all, led by the Santa Fe Daily New Mexican and the Albuquerque Citizen, favor strongly immediate statehood. While the Democratic papers, like the Albuquerque Journal, Roswell Record and weekly press are either fighting it or are lukewarm. From our standpoint, the sooner we can get statehood and be relieved from the tutelage of a territory and are allowed to 'paddle our own canoe,' the better we will like it. Eastern New Mexico during the past few years, has had an influx of at least 12,000 American citizens who believe in self-government and in looking out for themselves. This is the class of people, hardy, sturdy men, who have built up the great west so far and who have settled in our county and vicinity and we know they are for statehood, and we express their sentiments when we say 'God speed to the statehood movement and urge Governor Curry, Delegate Andrews and others in authority and in power to work with might and main to give us self-government.'"

**BRYAN THE DICTATOR OF THE DEMOCRACY.**

It is certainly a remarkable fact and one unprecedented in American political history that Colonel William Jennings Bryan has been for eleven years and is today the absolute dictator of what is called the Democratic party of the United States. In the words of Mr. Cleveland "this is a condition and not a theory."

It can not be doubted by those who keep acquainted with the trend of public events and public sentiment, that Mr. Bryan can have the Democratic nomination for the presidency next year if he desires it or can name the candidate for the party if he so wishes it. It is also almost certain that he will write the platform for the Democracy next year.

Under the heading "Mr. Bryan and His Party" the Kansas City Star is of the opinion that the gravest responsibility as far as his party is concerned rests upon Mr. Bryan. The paper is of the opinion that so strong is the personal influence of William Jennings Bryan that no progress in the direction of a line-up for next year can be made so long as his position with reference to the presidential nomination remains undetermined. It is given out that among those who would be candidates if Mr. Bryan should announce that he would not accept the nomination, there is not a single man who would oppose a Bryan candidacy. So it is seen by Mr. Bryan as well as by others that he must declare himself.

It is doubtful whether the history of American politics shows another example of personal sway like that of Mr. Bryan. At this time he controls his party, in a political sense, even more than President Roosevelt dominates the Republican organization. It cannot be recalled that any other man who has not achieved the presidency has ever acquired such a powerful grip on his party. As a rule, failure means loss of prestige. But Mr. Bryan has met with two defeats in the last eleven years; yet during all of that time he has been the undisputed leader, and most of the time the absolute dictator of his party. If he had demanded a nomination in 1904 he could have secured it. The nomination of another man was possible only because he declared that he was not a candidate. Even in that year it was Bryan, not Parker, who represented Democratic leadership in the popular sense.

Does all this mean that Mr. Bryan, in spite of his failure to achieve the presidency, is a man of extraordinary genius, or does it mean that the party has become weak, aimless and inassertive, and is, therefore, easily

controlled by a nominal leadership? Be that as it may, Mr. Bryan's responsibility is relatively great. It is for him to direct the strengthening of his party or to put the responsibilities of leadership on other shoulders.

**WHY NOT NEW MEXICO POTATOES?**

Potatoes raised near Carbondale, Colorado, have been used for several years exclusively in the dining cars of the New York Central Railway, although they have to be hauled two thousand miles for that purpose. Now it is reported that the Harvey eating house system which controls the dining cars and eating houses and hotels along the extensive Santa Fe system from Chicago to the Pacific coast and on its numerous branch lines has also contracted for its potato supply from the same farmer, for the reason that these potatoes are the best raised and are superior in every way. It is an established fact that the Harvey eating house system endeavors to give its patrons and they number thousands the best meals, the cleanest table service and the choicest of meat, vegetables and fruits.

Colorado potatoes are proverbial for being a good article and the market for them is expanding constantly. New Mexico, that is in many sections, can produce potatoes that with careful cultivation with some experience and with proper attention can beat the choicest of Colorado tubers. Potatoes could be raised in Taos county, in the mountainous sections of Colfax county in the mountains east and north of this city, in the Estancia valley and surrounding valleys on the Gila river and in many other parts in large quantities and of excellent quality and should supply the home demand. What Colorado climate and soil can do New Mexico climate and soil can produce still better provided brains, knowledge and experience and proper cultivation and labor are applied and used. The Greeley potato crop this year from a comparatively small area amounts to about 10,000 car loads, and is selling at very handsome figures. It is therefore no wonder that the farmers of that section are very prosperous and are living on the fat of the land. There is absolutely no good reason why within the next few years, similar results should not be obtained in the Sunshine Territory. It is gratifying to announce that in the Estancia valley and in the surrounding sections where agriculture and the raising of crops are still in their infancy quite a crop of very good potatoes has been raised there and are being sold to the mercantile establishments at very good rates. What is being done there can be done elsewhere in New Mexico.

**AN APOLOGY.**

Generally speaking, the hardest thing for an individual as well as a newspaper is to acknowledge himself or itself in error. But not for The Daily New Mexican, which has never flinched in its duty in this respect, not out of fear, but out of a sense of justice, although occasion for this has been less frequent in its forty-five years of existence than during the life of most other newspapers.

It accused the correspondent of the Albuquerque Journal of having obtained certain news items "surreptitiously and dishonestly," believing it was justified in so doing.

However, it has been explained to it since last evening that the news in question was not thus obtained, but through legitimate sources and after the afternoon papers had gone to press. It was also informed this morning that the news was not divulged until after warrants had been issued and the cause for suppressing it, no longer existed.

Therefore, the Daily New Mexican offers an apology to the correspondent in this matter and thanks him for having drawn its attention to what now appears to have been a regrettable error.

According to the Albuquerque morning paper the "plunderbund" is responsible for the investment by the Phelps, Dodge and Company of about \$10,000,000 in railroads and mining enterprises within the last six years. Score another for the "plunderbund." Would that there were more of them. The benefits the present "plunderbund" has brought to the territory since 1897 are certainly very apparent when the great increase in railroad mileage, in industrial development, in population and in investment of capital are considered. The "plunderbund" is all right regardless of the fulminations and accusations of the fake reformers and their yellow sheets.

The citizens of this city and county should attend the county statehood league meeting this evening, and take part in the organization of the league. Statehood means much for this city and probably more so than to any other place in the Sunshine Territory. The citizen who opposes the project or is lukewarm to it is simply standing in his own light and is a detriment to the well being and progress of the city. This is too plain to need argument or discussion.

U. S. Senator J. B. Foraker now has another cause for disgust at President Roosevelt. The bear killed by the president in the Louisiana cane breaks was big and black.

Mrs. Russell Sage may not know much about business, but she is evidently honest. She has just paid an outlawed debt incurred by her father many years ago.

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