

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN.

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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.



THE CREDIT BELONGS TO "BULL" ANDREWS.

Five years ago there was not a railroad, there was not a bank, there was not a newspaper, there was not a big town in the Estancia Valley, and what is now Torrance county. Presto change! There appeared upon the scene a man by the name of William H. Andrews of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—an important member, if you please, of the Matthew Quay political machine—a man who has held important office by election by the people in his native state, and who for many years had served the people well in various offices in which he was placed by their votes. This man conceived the idea of constructing the Santa Fe Central Railway from Santa Fe to a connection with what is now the El Paso and Southwestern Railway. He interested Pittsburgh capitalists in the movement. The money was raised and the road built. It is 116 miles long, in active operation and cost over \$2,000,000, capital which this man's effort brought to New Mexico for investment. Not even the man's most vindictive, venomous and unscrupulous enemies as for instance, the tax dodger, Albuquerque Morning Journal, or the Roswell Democrats, dare say that he benefited personally in an improper or dishonest manner in this transaction. To be sure they charge him with various crimes and misdemeanors before he came to New Mexico but not a lot of these charges have been proven to the satisfaction of decent and fair minded men. In court proceedings in which they claim that this man Andrews was interested speedily acquitted of the men with whom he was charged to have operated was the result. Yet this man is abused and libelled by these political cuckoos and tax dodgers because forsooth, he would not aid them in their tax dodging schemes. In spite of this he is doing his utmost almost daily to aid the city in which the major portion of this despicable gang lives and has done and is doing more for it in obtaining governmental favors than all the delegates from New Mexico have done from the date of its admission as a territory to the Fifty-ninth Congress. Now look at the change in the Estancia Valley.

Owing to this man's efforts principally the new county of Torrance was organized. It is increasing steadily in population, in prosperity and in taxable wealth. Its financial condition is not what it should be, but that is no fault of "Bull Andrews." Had he his way matters would be different. It is estimated that the county today has between 5,000 and 6,000 people, many of whom are substantial, hard working farmers and live stock raisers when five years ago it had not a population of over 1,000. Prosperous and growing towns have been founded. Estancia, Moriarty, McIntosh and Willard are the leading ones and from each town comes the glad tale of well doing and well being. Banks have been opened and are doing business at Estancia and Willard. Large wholesale, retail and mercantile firms have been established. Settlers have arrived by the hundreds and have made homestead and desert land entries in good faith and with the fixed determination to become permanent residents.

The taxable value of the section which five years ago did not amount to \$50,000 this year exclusive of the 100 miles of railroads within its borders amounts to \$571,471. Churches and schools are now notable where six years ago there were a few sheep ranches and where prairie dogs and jack rabbits interspersed with a few rattlesnakes held sway. Last but not least, by the first of next month, four weekly newspapers will be published in that section, two of Estancia, the county seat, one at Moriarty and the most recent arrival the Record at Willard. The school census for the present year shows 1,846 persons of school age and eighteen schools in operation. Six years ago if there was a public school in operation it was mostly on paper.

The farmers of the county last year made the best exhibit of agricultural products at the territorial fair. It has been demonstrated that Irish potatoes of superior quality and the best of sugar beets can be raised there without irrigation and in large quantities. "Bull Andrews' enemies may talk about him all they want to and lie about him all they choose to. Had it not been for the project which he conceived and for which he obtained the money and brought to New Mexico, there are nineteen chances to one that the territory embraced in

Torrance county, while it would have been improved somewhat in unison with the rest of New Mexico, would today be still a simple sheep range and a cattle domain.

During the past year up to date over 1,000 homestead entries have been made by hardy, self-reliant, energetic farmers in the county. Credit where credit is due.

LOS COMANCHES.

Much interest is manifested in the early literatures of all peoples. The nations that are possessed of literary survivals that signalize the beginning of a national literature are fortunate. Such works are seldom a finished literary product and would scarcely pass muster in the editorial office of a modern magazine but they are cherished nevertheless and proud the nation that has an Iliad, a Nibelungen Lied or a Kalevala.

Isolated practically from all the world, early New Mexico also had a literature of its own. Charles F. Lummis and others have done splendid work in gathering folk songs that had their origin a hundred, two hundred and almost three hundred years ago. Crude though they are, they embody the spirit that conquered inhospitable circumstances and laid the foundations for the present day commonwealth. New Mexico has its epics too, Los Comanches and the Pastores being examples, although the former written about 1780, is the most purely New Mexican, built upon New Mexico legend and history and expressed in the idiom that grew up as part of the language of the mother country after it was transplanted to America. As far as known, only one manuscript of this epic is in existence, and this is in the possession of Hon. Amado Chaves of this city and temporarily residing at present at Albuquerque. It has been put in print by the University of New Mexico as one of its quarterly bulletins. Preceding it is a critical study of this epic by Professor Aurelio M. Espinosa, who is doing invaluable work in preserving for posterity the earlier literature of New Mexico and who has written a critical preface to the epic, or rather, heroic play. The historical introduction briefly reviewing what is known of the Comanche Indians and their frequent incursions into New Mexico is of intense interest and should be part of the supplementary reading in every New Mexico grammar and high school.

The subject matter of the play relates to the two victories over the Comanches won in 1777 on the Staked Plains and the other northeast of Santa Fe in 1779. The former is described in a pamphlet by Amado Chaves printed by the New Mexico Historical Society, Professor Espinosa maintaining, however, that the battle was fought in 1777 and not 1717, the date given by Mr. Chaves. The footnotes and explanatory notes as well as the bibliographic references by the editor, Professor Espinosa, are especially valuable to the student of New Mexico Spanish and New Mexico literature. The play in itself is not long, only 515 lines, but is comparatively well written. The characters are few and the dialogue rather strained, but, the play has remained a favorite among the native people, and Professor Espinosa says that there are few of these over fifty years, who cannot recite some verses from Los Comanches. The manuscript of Mr. Chaves from which the play is reprinted, was written between 1840 and 1850, by the copyist, J. J. Vigil, who vouches for the exactness of the reproduction.

The publication of this play, and the further fact, that some of the notable localities of the Comanche warfare are easily identified, like that of the great meeting ground between the Comanches and the Santa Fe authorities, near Vega Blanca on the Santa Fe Central Railway, emphasizes the fact that New Mexico is indeed a land of romance and truly historic ground, a commonwealth whose many thrilling events can furnish the material for a score of great epics.

Governor Curry has granted a reprieve to the two convicts at Deming who were to have been hanged there yesterday in accordance with sentences imposed by the district court of Luna county after due trial and conviction. There will be no undue criticism on Governor Curry's action. The people of New Mexico are not blood-thirsty and are perfectly willing that all the circumstances connected with the cases should be carefully and thoroughly investigated by the executive.

Denver is jubilant because next year's Democratic national convention will be held within its limits. The Denverites know that there will be a great deal of money spent there, especially for "meat and drink" and the largest part of it for the latter.

TRADING WITH EL PASO.

Towns on the El Paso and Southwestern Railway as far north as Santa Rosa and on the Santa Fe Railway system as far north as San Marcial are evidently business tributaries to El Paso and the Pass City makes a good thing out of their trade. Under present circumstances concerning freight rates on the roads named this can not be helped and as much of the food stuffs consumed in that portion of southern New Mexico named must be imported why not from El Paso when prices and freight rates are favorable? El Paso merchants spend some money in New Mexico. Chicago, St. Louis and New York merchants spend very little comparatively speaking and take very little interest in the Sunshine Territory. On the other hand El Paso merchants and business men have some regard for New Mexico and help it along quite often. After all it seems best that southern New Mexico's trade should go to El Paso until such time as New Mexico can have a city which can supply the trade and cope with the large eastern cities for mercantile supremacy.

THE NEXT IRRIGATION CONGRESS

The people of Las Cruces and of the Mesilla Valley have subscribed \$3,500 toward the expenses of the National Irrigation Congress which will meet next year in Albuquerque. That is business and first class business at that. At that rate there will not only be no difficulty in securing sufficient funds but there will be more than enough money gotten together than will be necessary for the creditable maintenance and support of the Congress and there will be money left unexpended. There is no doubt that many other sections in the Sunshine Territory greatly interested in irrigation affairs will follow suit. The affair has been considered a territorial one and has lost its local aspect and that is the way it ought to be considered. Governor Curry can be justly credited with having started the territorial movement in favor of making the holding of the Congress a memorable and great territorial affair.

The Republicans of New Mexico will elect six delegates to the Republican national convention to be held in Chicago in June next. The New Mexican believes these delegates will be admitted to all the rights and privileges of regularly elected delegates of the states. This has been the custom for the past twelve years and certainly the experiment is worth trying again for the fourth time. Knockers and pessimists may be doubtful, but knockers and pessimists never won in any fight and never will. If the Republicans of the territory must fight to obtain six delegates in the Republican national convention they will do so. As in the statehood fight there is no chance to lose but there is much chance to gain advantage and prestige.

The statehood situation in the national capital at present is rather quiet and will remain so until the reassembling of the Congress after the holidays. Then the statehood fight must be commenced again and must be carried on by the thousands of New Mexico statehood advocates if it takes all winter and all summer. There must be no let up. A canvass of both Houses of the Sixtieth Congress shows a majority in favor of the passage of an enabling act for the territory of New Mexico and the principal work necessary will consist in getting the Andrews statehood bill up for action and a vote. If it passes either House the chances for passage in the other are excellent.

Conditions in the Pecos Valley are reported most favorable. The greatest area ever under cultivation will be placed under the plow and under water for irrigation during the coming spring. Alfalfa which sells steadily and readily at good figures will be one of the leading crops and as it is a very sure one the outlook despite the recent financial depression is of the very best. Immigration is steadily increasing and it is of the right kind. Most of the new comers are fairly well off and are investing heavily in agricultural lands. The census of 1910 will show a great state of progress and prosperity in southeastern New Mexico.

This government is growing. The cost of the publication of the Blue Book containing the names of all federal officials in 1863 amounted to \$3,681. For the year 1907 the figures will be above \$70,000. Special agents and special assistants to the attorney general evidently come high.

The financial situation is much easier and the indications point that as soon as the holidays are over it will have settled to normal and favorable conditions, although the harm done by it within the last three months will be felt more or less for some time to come.

The Columbia (South Carolina) Record is evidently hard up. In one of its recent editorials it exclaimed: "Oh, for a sight of money once more." The editor should come to New Mexico and visit the various National and Territorial banks. He would see lots of it.

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