

THE POLK COUNTY ITEMIZER.

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V. P. FISKE.

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Patronize One Another for the Uplifting of Town and County.

THE KNOCKERS AGAIN.

When the people of Dallas at the last election by a two to one vote put the progressive ticket into the council, they expected, and rightly, that the improvement policies for which those gentlemen stood would be carried out to the best of their ability. So they have. Until last week the little bunch of knockers have had no chance to get their work in in opposition to improvement, and then they succeeded in doing so good and plenty, holding up a piece of street work until next year that will work a hardship on everyone that has business to transact with our flouring mill, our foundry, our machine shops and our sash and door factory, four large industries of the town that have always been seriously handicapped in business relations with all by reason of the terrible quagmire known as East Mill street, that connects them with the main thoroughfare. Every farmer after grist, every man who desires repairs to his machinery or furnishings for his home must perforce wade his animals through this sea of mud to get what he desires. For years the majority of the property owners along Mill street have requested different councils to get this work in on the next batch of road work, but the necessity of completing other avenues of trade has kept it in work back until this year, when it was ordered for improvement and the work started. All welcomed the improvement but one or two, bringing as it would a considerable enhanced valuation of their property, and relieving them of the strain of seeing delivery wagons and other vehicles stalled in the mud or bringing with them such clouds of dust as to stifle those who desired to enjoy their summer on their porches and lawns. It had been intimated that the work would be held up by one of the property owners, but the council went ahead just the same, believing that no owner could be so blind to his own interests as to block an improvement so sorely needed by all, and which would prove of such great good to all. The preliminary expense entailed was of course considerable, calling for the passage of ordinances, advertising, letting of bids and many other incidents. Last week after considerable of the curbing on one side of the blocks was already completed it was found that this property owner was really in earnest in the matter and had inveigled several others into assisting him in the holdup, and the improvement was at once ordered discontinued, leaving Mill street at that end, if possible, in a worse condition than before, and no hope of rescue from the calamity until the matter has been rectified by the courts or legislature. The question at issue is only a technical one and really of no moment, simply involving the jurisdiction of the city in what is now a public highway instead of a city street, as it appears it had never been dedicated to Dallas. This is a matter easily rectified, but it will take time, throwing out the improvement for another year, and entailing much added expense upon the property holders interested, as the trouble now started should justly be charged up to the improvement when the work is done. All this preliminary work will also have to be gone over again next year, adding just that much more that innocent property owners will be compelled to put up on account of the following out of the knockers' program to retard every city improvement that they can find a means to. This work will have to be paid for in the end, and it were better for all that it be done while it can be at the cheapest possible figure, than insist on added cost to its construction. As one of the interested parties we surely deplore the stopping of the improvement.

The criticism of Governor West's prison policy comes only from political sources and is recognized as such by all that are fully informed. The making of better men of those who have transgressed our laws has become a noble one, indulged in by many of our country's humanitarians with credit to their efforts and lasting good to those whom they seek to benefit. There are few criminals so thoroughly depraved but what the placing of them on their honor as man to man will bring out the best in them rather than the opposite. Coercion simply brings more fully to the surface what is already bad in their nature. Especially has this fact been fully demonstrated by Lindsay and other municipal judges with those young in crime, and the resultant good in practically every instance has fully demonstrated the practicability and advisability of such a course of procedure. Governor West has introduced some unique methods in the treatment of criminals, and we believe they will be found to work out all right in the course of time. There are bound to be exceptions to all rules, and men will be found to turn against and betray their best friends. We believe the governor to be using his best judgment in the treatment of all, making individual cases as far as he can possibly do so. With the record of each convict at hand, he is far better able to judge as to whether a prisoner shall be allowed privileges than any of us outsiders, and we are perfectly willing to trust to his discretion in the matter. To say that a man who has been sent up for forging a check, or some other like crime, is a dangerous criminal is the long bow now drawn by certain extremely biased news-

papers. Such men, given the chance to work our roads, have the freedom of out door life, with no armed guards, extra credit marks and consequent shorter sentence, are not going to violate the agreement and commit acts that will forever bar them from once again entering the ranks of citizenship.

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RIDER.

A more or less steady stream of cow boy girls, somebody's "kids" and equally distinguished horseman is employed these days in riding across the continent. Other people push wheelbarrows or drive ox-carts or prairie schooners from ocean to ocean. There must be a clamorous demand in the show business for such performers, for of course after all the self-advertisement the public is expected to pay money to see them.

One of the first duties apparently of the mayors of New York and San Francisco is to furnish letters to each other for transmission by these trans-continental riders. All along the overland route the mayors of other cities are under obligations to drop their business and preside at local ovations for the cowboy girls and "kids," and the White House is at their disposal to help boost the enterprise. The only thing lacking to boom the coming show is the firing of a national salute now and then at army posts along the way. In time even that may be done.

The men, women and children who pushed across the plains and the mountains sixty years ago on horseback and wagons were greeted with no such attention. If they had only waited until the railroads were running and cities had sprung up everywhere and free food and lodging were to be had from New York to San Francisco, with no end of brass bands and cheap advertising, some of them might be famous today.

No one regrets more than the editor the fact that last week's issue contained no mention of the pioneers' annual reunion and other important happenings. We, of course, supposed the news field would be fully raked over by the temporary editors, but they turned the Itemizer into a religious weekly rather than a local one. Now that we have had our yearly vacation, we can promise our readers that the like will not occur again, and that hereafter, as heretofore, this sheet will contain all happenings of the county that it is possible for us to get hold of. Our county correspondents saved the day for us last week, and there was one page at least that told what had been going on during the previous seven days. Mistakes will happen in the best of well regulated print shops.

A newspaper has innumerable opportunities to boost and extend courtesies of various kinds to people, and is generally willing to do so. In doing these things it does not often expect direct pay. But there are people who will accept boosts and favors from a paper, and then when an opportunity comes to reciprocate they forget all about them and give it the cold shoulder. For these kind of people the newspaper has a good memory. The friendship of a newspaper is worth something, for the newspaper always returns more boosting than it receives. No man lives who does not at some time in his life, and perhaps offender, ask for and receive favors from a newspaper. It is then that the editor's memory comes to his aid.—The Fayetteville, Tenn., Observer.

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CELEBRATES 75th BIRTHDAY.

Hon. N. W. Rowell was Seventy-Five Years Old Tuesday.

Tuesday was a happy day at the Rowell home in East Afton, when the family gathered to celebrate the seventy-fifth birthday of the husband and father, Hon. N. W. Rowell. He is one of the oldest residents of this city and one of the most highly respected. Perhaps no man has taken a greater interest or accomplished more for Afton in past years than Mr. Rowell. He is yet active and aside from his hearing being impaired is physically perfect. His son, James and wife and their son, Edgar, came up from Leon Monday to help celebrate the important event, as did also his sister, Mrs. Julia A. Cherry, of Chicago.

Up until late years Mr. Rowell has been one of the most prominent lawyers of Southern Iowa and dates his settlement here from July 14, 1838, which was antecedent to that of any other lawyer in the county. He was born in Athens county, Ohio, June 15, 1836. In 1847 his father, William Rowell removed with his family to Wapello county, this state, purchasing a claim, which he afterward entered and improved. In 1853 Mr. Rowell returned to Athens and entered the Ohio university, where he graduated in 1856. He began the study of the legal profession at Centerville, Iowa, in 1857, with Judge Amos Harris, and was admitted to the bar in April, 1858, and came to Afton immediately afterward. His entire professional life has been passed as a member of the bar of Union county. He has been associated at different times with most of the principal lawyers at Afton. His first partnership was with Judge James G. Day. This relation existed two years when Judge Day removed. In 1866 he became associated with Judge James W. McDill, January 1, 1869, his partner became circuit judge and the partnership terminated. He was then associated with D. D. Gregory until the latter was elected to the bench in 1870. He then remained alone until 1876, when J. M. Milligan, Esq., became his partner, which relation continued until 1884, and since that time he has been alone. Few men are better known throughout Southern Iowa than Judge Rowell. His official career has extended over a great many years. He was a member of the Twelfth and Thirteenth general assemblies; has served twice as mayor of Afton, and was a member of the school board for fifteen consecutive years.—Afton Star Enterprise.

Sunset magazine for July—Vacation Time at Los Angeles Beaches, The Call of the Cool Sea, By Peter B. Kenne, beautifully illustrated in four colors, The Spell of O. N. & A. M. Williamson, Hunting, Fishing, Motoring, Fiction. On sale at all news stands.—J13

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