

THE question of putting a third ticket in the field at our coming county election is rife and being worked up with enthusiasm by parties favorable to the Farmer's Alliance. Under what head they propose coming into the fight or what name will be inscribed upon the banner this deponent knoweth not. But from conversations with some of the parties who advocate this radical move, we gather the disaffection is caused by injustice to tax payers and needless expenditure of county funds, hence arguing if this state of affairs is allowed to run for another two years the county will be bankrupt, or rather hopelessly involved. The tax payers of this county remember when Harney county was established in the distribution of funds, and indebtedness, the indebtedness overbalanced the funds and we owed Grant \$1800. A part of that debt has been paid, and however how is it possible to organize and equip a new county ready for business having no ready money without, a slight indebtedness. A county without roads, bridges or other public improvements cannot be put on its feet and make a respectable showing unless some appropriation be made by the county court for that purpose. Those who are pugnacious and kicking at what they term a needless expenditure of county funds, can have every vestige of such impression removed by examination of the county records. While our county court is like all others not infallible, still its record of an economical administration will compare favorably, we believe, with any in the state.

It is frequently the case in county elections that the offices of assessor and commissioners are lost sight of in the struggle for the more lucrative offices of sheriff and clerk, while it is a fact potent to every taxpayer that the offices of commissioner and assessor are of more importance to us financially than either the office of clerk or sheriff. In our eagerness to secure the nomination of some one for one or both of the last named offices, we forget the more essential offices to us as a financial point of view, and without hardly a thought or consideration drop into line and nominate anyone willing to serve, without informing ourselves as to the qualifications and fitness of the aspirant for the position. We know the pay of an assessor is not so good as that of the clerk or sheriff, but here is the idea, if you wish to employ an engineer, and a lawyer applies for the place, never having studied engineering you would hardly hire him. A man's peculiar fitness for a position is where lies his success in the performance of duties incumbent upon him.

NEXT Saturday, the 26th, our primaries come off; we would advise a careful selection of delegates to represent us in the convention. The success of the party depends largely upon the action of our county convention. Delegates should be selected with an eye single to good

and efficient work in the convention when assembled, men of good sound democratic principles, and not so much prejudiced by sectional likes and dislikes as to jeopardize the success of the ticket when nominated by insisting upon the nomination of certain parties through personal friendship or other notions when other candidates demand recognition, whose democracy and honesty of purpose cannot be questioned. A stubborn man in a convention is like a balky horse, he is willing to have on the harness and pull when the cart moves in the direction he wishes.

ROBBED BY MEXICAN BANDITS.

DURANGO, Mexico, March the 17.—One of the heaviest and boldest robbers ever committed in this part of Mexico took place here Wednesday of last week. C. W. Brittain, manager of the Vacas mines, seventy-five miles west of this place, left here last Monday for the mines with 10,000 silver dollars in an iron safe in a stout wagon. He was accompanied by J. H. Herndon, a young American, who rode in front on horseback. The wagon contained Mr. Brittain and his driver. Beside the wagon rode two trusty Mexicans. All were well armed. When within seven miles of Constanca, fifty five miles from Durango, twenty-five men rode up from behind and commenced shooting. Juan Castanaeda one of the guards, was killed, and Herndon severely wounded. The fire of the bandits was returned by Mr. Brittain and his guard, and one of the robbers was struck with a bullet, and is believed to have been killed, as he fell from his horse. The lash was given to the horses, but they gained on the wagon, taking it and the money. Mr. Brittain escaped into the chaparral with Mr. Herndon in his arms. They made their way to Constanca where they notified the military authorities. A detachment of troops at once went to the scene of the robbery, but when they arrived at the spot they found that the safe had been broken into and robbed of every sack containing the silver dollars. The bandits were trailed into the adjoining mountains, but have not been captured.

Battle with a Cougar.

A young man named Ed. Birch, while hunting in the Blue mountains several days ago, had a very exciting time with a cougar says the Baker City Reveille. While walking through the timber he discovered a female cougar and a cub lying across the path, and raising his gun to his shoulder he fired and killed them both. He afterwards walked up to where the dead animals lay and was examining them, when suddenly the male cougar which had been hiding in a tree, sprang upon Birch and then a fierce struggle began. The cougar embedded his claws and teeth into Birch's right arm. The man endeavored to shake the furious animal off but he was unable to do so. Finally he was enabled to secure his hurting knife and succeeded in stabbing the animal in the side several times, until death ensued. In the struggle Mr. Birch's arm was badly lacerated, and he went to Walla Walla for medical treatment.

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