

The Chase County Courant,
Official Paper of Chase County.
W. E. TIMMONS, Editor and Publisher.

Our wives and families pay a tax of \$6,000,000 a year as a "protection" to the poor millionaires who makes our spool thread.

We present our readers, this week, with Gov. Glick's message, in supplemental form. It is good reading, and furnishes much food for reflection.

The stock of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad is owned by 5,720 persons, of whom 5,600 reside in Boston or in its immediate vicinity.

The Republicans in Congress are trying to reduce the tax on whisky; the Democrats that on blankets. It seems to be a fight between cheap whisky and cheap blankets.

The annual meeting of the State Historical Society will be held in the Senate Chamber, Topeka, on Tuesday evening, January 16, 1883, for the election of officers, and the transaction of other business.

The January number of *Our Little Men and Little Women*, published by D. Lothrop & Co., Boston, Mass., and, by the way, an excellent little magazine for children, is on our table. Price, \$1 a year.

Demorest's Monthly Magazine begins the year brilliantly; the January number being unsurpassed by any that has preceded it. The articles are unusually interesting. No family will regret subscribing to this admirable magazine, as it supplies a household want, and is both useful and entertaining. It costs but \$2 a year. You can get it and the *COURANT* for \$3 a year.

Prof. Tice, the distinguished Meteorologist and Weather Prophet, of St. Louis, has issued his *Annual National Weather Forecasts* for 1883, in which, besides foretelling the weather for every day in the year, and clearly explaining the theory upon which his predictions are based, he gives much other information concerning atmospheric phenomenon—the whole designed not only to give the facts as to the weather, but to teach the masses the facts determining weather changes.

In the present number the Professor has a timely article on "Comets," and also on Electricity as "The Fuel of the Future." In view of the terrible storms of last summer, his "Notions about 'Tornadoes'" are especially interesting; and his directions for guarding against their destructive effects, possess rare practical value. The pages of the Almanac for 1883 are further enriched by a variety of fresh, popular and instructive matter relating to the fascinating science of Meteorology—the whole making one of the most complete and useful annuals for the farm, the household and the shop ever published. For sample copy and terms to the trade and to agents, send 20 cents to Thompson, Tice & Lullington, of St. Louis, Mo.

A KANSAS REFERENCE BOOK.
We are in receipt of the *Daily Capital Annual* for 1883. It is a pamphlet of over 70 pages, profusely illustrated, giving much general reading matter, complete election returns of 1882, wealth, population, taxation, debts, etc., taxes paid by railroads, names of members of the Legislature, judiciary of Kansas, short history of Kansas, how and when to pay taxes, and much other information regarding Kansas not found in any one publication. This pamphlet is sent free to any address, for 10 cents, or three copies for 25 cents, by the Daily Capital Publishing Company, Topeka, Kansas.

G. A. R.
Mr. Editor: Please say the next regular meeting of John W. Geary Post will be held January 20, the third Saturday of the month, at 12 o'clock, p. m., prompt. At which time the officers-elect will be installed. As this meeting will be but a few days previous to the time of the convening of the State Department, it is important that every comrad be on hand.

By order of C. C. WHITSON,
H. JUD, Commander,
Adjutant.

Commissioner's Proceedings.

Board of County Commissioners met in regular session; Jan. 1st, 1883, and remained in session 5 days. Board all present.

C. F. Nesbit and J. M. Warren were appointed to assist the County Superintendent in the examination of teachers. The appointment of C. H. Klein, R. R. Brash and Jont. Wood to appraise school land southwest quarter of south east quarter, range 36, township 18, section 6, approved.

Newton Stout released from moiety on account of stray taken up by him. The stray having been restored to its owner.

Official Bonds approved, to-wit: Mary E. Hunt, County Superintendent; S. P. Young, County Attorney; C. C. Whitson, Probate Judge; E. A. Kinnie, Clerk of the District Court.

Viewers appointed to view a change of road as petitioned for by W. M. Stephenson and others in Cottonwood township, viewers, R. C. Campbell, A. W. James and J. R. Holmes.

Section line in county road changed as petitioned for, by John Talbot and others, in Cottonwood township. Established.

Former decision relative to rejection of county road in Diamond Creek township sustained. M. D. Umbarger taxed with cost.

The County Clerk was directed to purchase 1 car of coal for court-house. Consideration of the M. Thompson road in Falls township, postponed until the April session.

Viewers appointed to view section line road, in Toledo township, as petitioned for by Henry Keelander and others. Viewers, D. R. Shellenbarger, C. A. C. A. Hancock and J. A. Lind.

R. Sayer, J. C. Dwelle and D. Sauble were appointed as viewers on road in Cottonwood township, of Maria Barnes and others, also one road petitioned for by G. W. Blackburn and others.

Road changes as petitioned for by J. Hartley and others' Diamond Creek township, established, expense of road to be paid by Hartley and his bondsmen.

Marion Kellum, W. W. Moore and Joseph Hayworth appointed viewers on county line road between Chase and Lyon counties, as petitioned for by A. Bartley and others.

Right of way over the road from Cottonwood Falls to Strong City, for street cars, was granted to J. W. Hartzell, for 99 years. Road to be completed and in operation within 18 months from March 1st, 1883.

An election was ordered to be held on the first Tuesday in February 1883, for the purpose of voting on the proposition of appropriating one mill on the dollar of all the taxable property in Chase county, for the purchase and improvement of grounds for County Agricultural Society.

The Board met Monday, January 8, according to law. Archie Miller qualified as the member from District number 2, and was elected Chairman.

All advertising for the county was ordered published in the three papers, at full legal rates, said rates to be equally divided between the three publishers, said publishers having made a joint bid in conformity with said order. Resignation of A. Miller as Township Clerk, Falls township, accepted and James Austin was appointed to fill vacancy.

Bills Allowed by the Board of County Commissioners.

The following is the statement of the accounts allowed by the Board of County Commissioners at its January, 1883, session:

P. J. Norton, fee bill Dec term dist court	\$3 90
Geo Balch, sheriff, summoning jury	29 00
P. J. Norton, clerk's fees, Aug 18 term	32 50
P. C. Jeffrey, commissioner's fees	13 00
Arion Jones	21 00
J. M. Tuttle	18 00
Madden Bros, examining fee bills	10 00
J. P. Kuhl, 2 cars of coal	140 25
M. A. Campbell, hardware	8 36
State vs. Mattie Arnold:	
F. B. Hunt, justice fees	1 65
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	1 40
State vs. J. C. West:	
F. B. Hunt, justice's fees	1 65
Geo Balch, sheriff's fees	1 20
State vs. Chas Crawford:	
F. B. Hunt, justice's fees	1 65
Geo Balch, sheriff's fees	65
State vs. M. A. Redford, 4 cases:	
P. J. Norton, clerk dist court fees	39 10
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	2 10
State vs. Wm Walker:	
P. J. Norton, clerk dist court fees	39 50
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	69 25
J. M. Thrall, do	28 10
John Simms, do	27 75
F. B. Hunt, Justice's fees	6 55
C. E. Gandy, witness fees	3 50
G. K. Hagans, do	3 00
I. Alexander, do	3 00
J. G. Winters, do	3 00
W. H. Winters, do	2 00
B. W. Ellis, do	2 00
F. M. Jones, do	1 89
J. V. Stone, do	3 00
Jabba Johnson, do	4 50
C. K. Nicholas, do	3 80
M. Reardon, do	3 80
Wm Wheeler, do	3 80
H. J. Gibson, do	3 80
R. Walsh, do	3 80
Boon Smith, do	3 00
S. M. Perrigo, do	3 00
W. H. Carter, do	3 00
P. J. Norton, do	1 80
A. C. Cox, do	1 80
State vs. Ed. Bridges	
P. J. Norton, clerk's fees	\$63 45
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	1 50
T. L. Ryan, do	1 50
H. C. Robinson, Justice fees	6 00
C. H. Carswell, witness fees	3 00
Wm Wheeler, do	4 80
W. H. Winters, do	5 00
F. M. Jones, do	4 80
H. J. Gibson, do	4 80
C. K. Nicholas, do	5 00
G. K. Hagans, do	5 00
J. G. Winters, do	5 00
L. M. Clay, do	4 80
J. W. Stone, do	5 00
C. F. Gandy, do	5 00
Clava Moore, do	5 25
H. H. Carter, do	5 25
Della Hagans, do	4 25
S. A. Perrygo, do	4 25

State vs Higgins:

P. J. Norton, clerk's fees	22 05
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	11 05
F. B. Hunt, Justice's fees	11 05
J. M. Engles, witness fees	2 80
E. A. Robinson, do	2 80
E. Randall, do	2 80
John Peitzer, do	2 80
J. Shoenaker, do	2 80
D. A. Potter, do	2 80
Maggie Potter, do	2 80
John Randall, do	2 80
E. C. Childs, juror fees	1 50
Jas Austin, do	90
I. B. Vall, do	90
F. R. Dygert, do	1 20
E. Mitchell, do	1 50
Lewis Balch, do	50

State vs I M Hudson

P. J. Norton, clerk dist court fees	10 85
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	41 65
F. B. Hunt, Justice's fees	2 10
Phillip Hinkle, witness fees	1 90
E. Sturges, do	1 90
J. L. Crawford, do	3 10
P. C. Jeffrey, do	1 80
T. L. Ryan, do	6 50
Joe Lacoss, do	5 00
A. N. Frechorn, do	5 00
Jas Smithers, do	5 00
R. F. Guisen, do	5 00
W. H. Dykes, do	5 00
Maggie Peake, do	5 00
Mollie Davis, do	5 00
Rufus Minturn, do	5 00
R. M. Davis, do	6 40
John Pearce, do	80

State vs Samuel Brown:

P. J. Norton, clerk dist court fees	19 30
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	18 85
F. B. Hunt, Justice's fees	2 00
F. R. Dodge, witness fees	2 00
W. T. Hutson, do	7 00
A. J. Bradley, do	7 00
Jabe Johnson, do	4 50
J. W. Martin, do	4 50
Mort Mitchell, do	4 80

State vs C Watson:

P. J. Norton, clerk dist court, fees	5 65
Geo Balch, sheriff's fees	2 00
H. C. Robinson, witness fees	1 50
John Stimpson, do	11 50

State vs Burt Robinson:

P. J. Norton clerk's fees	9 40
F. B. Hunt, Justice's fees	6 80
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	1 80
Jane Shaft, witness fees	3 80
Mrs J. H. Cox, do	3 80

State vs Geo Hill, 4 cases:

P. J. Norton, clerk dist court fees	45 20
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	2 60

State vs Pete Weiland, 3 cases:

P. J. Norton, clerk dist court, fees	34 55
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	2 60

State vs S. S. Smith & E. A. Robinson:

P. J. Norton, clerk dist court fees	57 19
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	4 19

State vs Fred Drury:

P. J. Norton, clerk dist court fees	19 45
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	14 95
John Miller, Justice's fees	1 00
J. G. Winters, constable's fees	5 50
J. T. Dickson, witness fees	2 30
Thos Marriot, do	2 30
J. A. Coates, do	3 20

State vs E. B. Allen:

P. J. Norton clerk dist court fees	29 10
Jacob Johnson, sheriff fees	21 80
H. B. Wagoner Justice fees	24 45
W. P. Pugh, witness fees	1 00
John Miller, witness fees	2 50
E. S. Shaw, do	2 50
F. M. Hooks, do	2 50

State vs A. Ferlet:

P. J. Norton, clerk dist court fees	36 95
Geo Balch, Sheriff fees	1 50

State vs I. M. Hudson:

P. J. Norton clerk dist court fees	10 80
F. B. Hunt, Justice's fees	1 65
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	34 90
D. K. Carter vs Board of Commissioners:	
P. J. Norton, clerk dist court fees	23 05
Jabin Johnson, sheriff fees	8 80

State vs Name Unknown:

F. B. Hunt, Justice fees	2 00
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	75

State vs Tom Collins:

F. B. Hunt, Justice fees	1 65
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	6 00
State vs Smith & Robinson:	
H. C. Robinson, Justice's fees	6 75
F. B. Hunt, Justice's fees	1 80
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	24 90
E. Wadley, juror's fees	1 00
W. M. Young, do	1 00
W. P. Whitehouse, do	1 00
L. T. Simmons, do	1 00
M. A. Campbell, do	1 00
H. W. Spencer, do	1 00
W. E. Timmons, do	1 50
Cal Pentegraft, do	1 50
L. A. Loomis, do	1 00
Frank Hardy, do	1 50
O. C. Pratt, witness fees	1 00

State vs F. Oberst, 4 cases:

P. J. Norton clerk dist court fees	40 45
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	1 50

State vs C. W. Burr, 4 cases:

P. J. Norton clerk dist court fees	45 29
Geo Balch, sheriff fees	5 84

[To be concluded next week]

THOS. H. GRISHAM,

ATTORNEYS - AT - LAW,
Office at Court-House,
COTTONWOOD FALLS, KANSAS.

MADDEN BROS.,

Attorneys - at - Law,
Office, Court-house, Cottonwood Falls,
Will practice in State and Federal Courts.
All business placed in our hands will receive
careful and prompt attention. aug10-1f

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ATTORNEY - AT - LAW,
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Loans made on improved farms, at 7
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C. N. STERRY,

ATTORNEY - AT - LAW,
EMPORIA, KANSAS,
Will practice in the several courts of Lyon,
Chase, Harvey, Marion, Morris and Osage
counties in the State of Kansas, and in the
Supreme Court of the State, and in the Fed-
eral Courts therein. 1y13

F. P. COCHRAN

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
COTTONWOOD FALLS, CHASE COUNTY, KANSAS
Will practice in all the State and Federal
courts and land offices. Collections made
and promptly remitted. feb-1f

JOSEPH G. WATERS.

ATTORNEY - AT - LAW,
Topeka, Kansas,
(Postoffice box 405) will practice in the
District Court of the counties of Chase,
Marion, Harvey, Reno, Rice and Barton.
feb28-1f

A. W. HARRIS,

Attorney - at - Law,
STRONG CITY, KANSAS,
Practices in all the courts of Chase and
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DEALER IN
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STOVES, TINWARE,
Iron, Steel, Nails, Horse-shoes,
Horse-nails; a full line of Wagon
and Buggy Material, Iron & Wood
Pumps, a complete line of

STEEL GOODS!
FORKS, SPADES, SHOVELS,
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Carries an excellent stock of

Agricultural Implements,
Consisting of Breaking and Stir-
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for the well-known

Wood Mowing Machine,
and best makes of Sulky Hay Rakes

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Sole agent for this celebrated wire,
the best now in use.

Full Line of Paint & Oil on Hand.

A COMPLETE TINSHOP.
I have an experienced tinner in
my employ and am prepared to do
all kinds of work in that line, on
short notice, and at very low prices.

WEST SIDE OF BROADWAY,
COTTONWOOD FALLS, KAS.

DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, GROCERIES, ETC.

THE GREAT

EMPORIUM!

J. W. FERRY

Desires everybody to know that he has
one of the

BEST AND LARGEST STOCKS

Of goods ever brought to this market,

CONSISTING OF

DRY GOODS,

NOTIONS,

GROCERIES,

COFFINS,

FURNITURE,

BOOTS AND SHOES,

CLOTHING,

HATS AND CAPS,

QUEENSWARE,

CLASS WARE,

TIN WARE,

And, in fact, anything

NEEDED BY MAN

During his existence on earth.

BE SURE TO GO TO

J. W. FERRY'S,

The increase of population increases the business of the merchant and tradesman, and furnishes work and employment to our mechanics and laborers. It gives to the State the power of numbers, and increases its influence in a national as well as a commercial point of view.

It perhaps, more real and substantial inducements to the immigrant than any other locality where vacant land exists or where homes can be purchased at moderate prices. We have a magnificent school system, endowed by an annual disbursement of over \$3,300,000 with all the advantages that society and refinement give to the people of any State. To the stockman and agriculturist our State offers inducements that no other locality surpasses. We have a soil of unsurpassed fertility, a salubrious climate, short winters, with an annual rainfall that produces abundant crops to reward the husbandman, and plenty of water and green pastures for the stockman, whether he wants the tame or native grasses. Our railroads, the great arteries that transport the cereal product and live stock to market.

It is necessary to keep these advantages before the people of other States, and of the Old World, to secure a large, valuable and annual increase to our population. We need the hardy, industrious and economical German, the energetic and enterprising Canadian, to help settle up and subdue our native soil—to aid in developing the inexhaustible resources of our young Commonwealth. I should earnestly advise every citizen that means you may see fit to adopt to induce and invite immigration to our State, whether through the influence of our State Agricultural Department, by the appointment of a State Agent to represent in New York City, or to visit Europe in the interest of immigration.

It is important that the impression now existing against our State, on account of certain supposed infringements of the personal rights or liberties of individuals, and interfering with certain common and harmless customs, should be promptly and vigorously removed. Our laws, with proper and judicious management, will, I think, accomplish the wished-for result, and then in a short time the tide of immigration to our State.

INDIRECT BURDENS.

There is a surplus in our Federal Treasury of \$150,000,000, which, together with the annual expenditures, measures the apparent burdens on the people. This surplus attracts those who would for their own selfish ends make spoil of the public funds. Not only the fiscal officers of the general Government and the President of the United States, but all good men of all parties, have denounced and deplored this surplus as tempting and corrupting in its effects. It is a consequence as well as a cause of evil policies and practices. It denotes excessive taxation and the multiplication of burdens on the people. It means excessive cost of fuel, shelter, food, clothing and other necessities and comforts of life. It adds by its excessive and unnecessary taxation the cost of railroads, and increases costs of transportation of the produce of the farmer to the markets of the world, and adds greatly to the price of the products which he does not pay back anything to the producer. It is a tax on food which does not inure to the benefit of the producer or consumer. It is increased taxation on the people, and the capita of the States whose people are enjoying the effects of a protective tariff, while the rate is being rapidly reduced in the Agricultural States.

Whether this excess is a hundred or two hundred millions, the pernicious principle is the same. It concerns the people of this country, and they should be made aware of it and their duty to bear it. If the taxation by the present tariff simply furnished the funds to carry on the Government, frugally administered, and there were no other liabilities in its management, a patient agricultural people might not complain. But as the census shows there are States which may be called unprotected States, yet the latter furnish not only their full share of the immediate expenses of the general Government, but they also contribute to the support of the present protective system never find their way to the National Treasury, but go to swell the wealth of those who profit by this system, and the general increase of the wealth per capita of such States, and a gradual decrease of wealth per capita of the Agricultural States. The average tariff tax on the produce of the farmer is about one cent, and the farmer varies from thirty to one hundred and fifty per cent, and this immense tax on the industries of the State makes fearful inroads on the earnings of the farmer. To this tax may be added the increased cost of the article to the consumer which adds greatly to his burdens and raises an immense sum of money annually that never finds its way into the Treasury vaults, but is estimated at from five hundred millions to one billion of dollars which is collected from the consumer by the enhanced price of articles of use.

The protective policy of our present tariff laws is the result of bad legislation and a vicious system that assumes to tax one class of people and to benefit another class of people or business; taxing the consumer so as to raise the revenues for the support of the Government, and at the same time and by this system to benefit a few classes who succeed in building up immense monopolies and secured in years past the favor of Congress and protection from the tariff laws. This pernicious system is that it makes a home market. The fallacy of this argument has been demonstrated by every writer on political economy. It is not necessary to add that the price of farm produce is not regulated by the domestic demand, but the markets of Europe that measures the value of our crops and the great extent of our State. It is argued that the tariff system of labor. The history of this protective system in our own country proves its fallacy, as also the additional fact that the countries that are the most protected are the worst off in Europe, pay the lowest wages.

The agriculturists of Kansas have their own local interests, but they happen to be in accord with the general interests of the country and commerce with other lands. Commerce is not a one-sided affair. The markets for the cereals and meat of the great farm States are not to be made in Kansas. It must be made, and when made, continued by liberality and justice of our own laws. We must not provoke retaliation by our tariff laws. We must not limit our markets in which to buy what we need and sell at the best prices and where we please. The revenues for the support of the National Government can be necessarily must be raised by a tariff system, but that system should be so adjusted and arranged that it will raise revenue for the liberal, though necessary support of the Government, and be levied on the luxuries rather than the necessities of life, thus relieving labor of its unjust burdens and placing the farmers of Kansas on an equality with the other farmers of the country, and relieving them from exactions they ought not to bear. While it may be argued that you have nothing to do with this question, it is important that we should understand that burdens are borne by the people, and how they are enforced, so that as statesmen and wise legislators you can temper the burdens and taxes that you impose, and the exactions may not impoverish those who are expected to respond to all demands for support you may make on them. Besides, when the folly of the present onerous tariff system is fully understood, the voters will see that those who represent them in Congress will represent the agricultural interests of Kansas, instead of the protected monopoly of other States.

EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY.

In our present system of Government the Executive of the State is generally held responsible, in public estimation, for the proper management of general State affairs; the Assessor, Penitentiary, and other State institutions; the honest and faithful disbursements of public funds; the fairness of contracts made in the name, or on the part of the State boards; or improperly or imprudently using or misapplying State funds; or making fraudulent or improvident contracts; employing an unnecessary number of employees, or where there is danger of the loss of public money, or of the State property, the Executive is powerless to protect or avert

any impending danger, as he now has no authority, under any law, to interpose the authority of the State, except for completed and executed acts, and only by appearing as the prosecutor in the criminal courts, or by instituting civil suits in the name of the State. Often charges are made against officers; charges affecting the character and official integrity, that are groundless, while they have no means of vindicating the honesty of their conduct before the public, or having the Executive Council in a position to defend the honest and faithful officer or show that moneys have been properly and legally expended, and that no fraud or collusion was made without collusion or fraud. The complete protection of the interests of the State demand, now more than when we had annual sessions of the Legislature, that the Executive Council should be vested with the protection of the interests of the State, its funds, its public institutions, its contracts and public works; and also to cause investigation to be made of the facts of any alleged fraud or misconduct may be ascertained, and guilty parties removed from authority.

To accomplish such investigations or examinations, I would suggest that the Governor be authorized, by a proper law, on his own motion, or on charges preferred in writing, to order investigation to be made into the management of any public institutions, contractors or disbursements of public funds, to the end that the interests, and the public funds appropriated for the different departments be carefully guarded, that no dishonest man should suffer, or any guilty one escape. The honest and faithful official is always ready for an investigation, while the dishonest one is not. They have by their inaction into his conduct. There is no harm done, our great good has resulted, by our laws providing for the examination of our country and State Treasurer without notice to the agents. No official objects, or can with any pretense of honesty, to a fair and impartial investigation, and there certainly can be no valid reason for an official to object to an audit of County Treasurers, or to disburse, control or make contracts for the appropriations of public funds, should not be subjected to the same system of investigation.

RAILROADS.

It is a recognized fact that railroads have, in a sense, made our State. They have by means of circulars and pamphlets extensively advertised the State, and thus brought it to the attention of thousands of immigrants who have made our State their permanent home, and an important class of our population. They have aided in the general material development of our resources, and have proved themselves an invaluable agency, and this is thoroughly appreciated by the public.

While this is true, it is equally true that the State has made the railroads, so that a moral obligation exists between them. To encourage and promote the building of railroads throughout the State, our citizens very wisely procured from the general Government large grants of land, supplemented by donations from our citizens, and the sale of our school lands, and Government and municipal bonds, with first mortgage guaranteed bonds, amounting to about \$27,000,000, so that railroads of over 10,000 miles of dollars of money have been donated to aid in the construction of the various railroads of our State.

These generous donations of lands and bonds were made by the people of Kansas for the purpose of building the magnificent railroad system of our State, and for their treatment of the railroads, and the manner or at least fair treatment in return, and for this expectation was fully met. These liberal subsidies at the outset enabled the promoters of the railroads to purchase land and equip and maintain the lines in question in a style second to none in the country, but they also placed the original constructors in a position to greatly enrich themselves as individuals. The actual cost of building, equipping and maintaining these roads did not exceed more than one-half of the cash value of the lands, mortgages and bonds donated to them, thus leaving the balance of the money donated for the construction of railroads to go into the pockets of the management. And yet, profitable as railroad building has been to the railroads, the people of the State and the people did not complain, or interpose any obstacles to the successful construction of railroads, until after the passage of the "Consolidation Act" authorizing the roads to consolidate and lease railroads. Up to this period in the history of the State there was a perfect understanding and the best feeling between the people and the railroads. Competition existed between the roads, and fair and generous treatment was accorded to the public. But soon after the passage of the "Consolidation Act" the original railroad companies having sold or leased their roads to second parties, these new corporations, taking advantage of this law, proceeded to consolidate their interests, to the detriment and injury of the people. From that hour the antagonism between the people and these corporations has steadily increased, until to-day we have in our State a strange species of monopoly, a very patronage which enables them to wield a power whose possibilities are simply appalling. Steadily have these corporations increased the rates of freight and passenger rates, taken advantage of the necessities of business and commerce; they have, upon the flimsiest pretext, presumed to do high-handed and arrogant things, and to disregard the real interests of the State, and have simply used the State and its resources to the detriment and injury of its agricultural, commercial and manufacturing interests. A systematic and thoroughly organized method of "pooling their earnings" by unjust discriminations against localities and individuals, by excessive and exorbitant freight and passenger rates, by drawing back secretly allowed, thus defrauding other patrons, as well as by an arrogant and intolerant policy, they have made it practically impossible for the honest and faithful producers to compete with the same classes in adjoining States. The result of this has been to make it unprofitable to develop the manufacturing resources of our State, and to make it unprofitable to develop the manufacturing resources of all kinds made in the far eastern States are shipped into our State and sold here at a less cost than these articles can be manufactured anywhere else in the country for the simple reason that our railroads are constantly discriminating against our home manufacturers, and exacting excessive local rates under the tariff laws. It is more profitable than a short one, even when a greater rate is charged for a short haul, and the empty car is again ready for the company's use, and the cost of the empty car is the same in both instances. The effect of this has been to paralyze and stop the manufacturing industries of the State.

Furthermore, railroads are constantly discriminating against our wholesale merchants in favor of the same class in other States; and not content with this, they are discriminating against the purchasing agents and retail dealers, and against the whole agricultural, mercantile and commercial interests of the State. The agricultural interests of the State, by that form of injustice known as "pooling," by which excessive rates are charged and competition prevented, are so seriously crippled that in the Western half of the State it is impossible to raise any crop, and in the Eastern half, to make agriculture profitable, and the hard-working farmer, whose only dependence is his crop, is held in a condition of helpless submission and dependence so that the fertility of his soil is of no especial advantage to him, and the products of his labor do not yield him their proper returns. If this wrong is not speedily corrected the time will come when agriculture in the western half of the State will necessarily be abandoned, and the State suffer a loss of millions of dollars in consequence.

The dire effects of this system of discrimination is also seen in checking the growth and prosperity of all the towns, villages and cities of the State. These towns are thus injured, their business crippled, their industries embarrassed, their development retarded, and the price of all commodities unduly enhanced; and all this is endured while towns and cities in adjoining States are being rapidly built up at our expense. And not only is this the case in its agricultural, its manufacturing interests,

and in all its commerce, but it is hampered to such an extent that its growth and prosperity make a thing of slow and uncertain stages, and it is well to remember that in the past that it may continue to rank among the foremost States of our nation, and that the business and prosperity of our cities and towns may be increased, that manufacturing establishments may be possible and lucrative; that our agricultural interests may be as profitable as the fertility of the soil, the salubrity of our climate, and the industry of our citizens deserve.

In addition to these oppressive discriminations against localities and individuals, these corporations have for ten years persistently defied the law, and have by their own enactment requiring them to establish and keep their general offices within the State, but have moved them beyond our limits, and now deny and defy the jurisdiction of our courts, thus violating the will of the people in this regard. And perhaps one of the worst features of this vexed railway problem made, that the railroads have by their own enactment requiring them to establish and keep their general offices within the State, but have moved them beyond our limits, and now deny and defy the jurisdiction of our courts, thus violating the will of the people in this regard. 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