

JASPER COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

F. E. BABCOCK, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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Councilman for District No. 1, composed of
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Councilman for District No. 3, composed of
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JOSEPH VAGELIS, of Marion Township.

Councilman for District No. 4, composed of
Carpenter, Jordan and Millbury Townships.

JAMES D. CARSON, of Remington.

"Open the books" is the paramount issue in Jasper county this year.

Blatherskite Beveridge has let the cat out of the bag, and the leaders of his party are privately cursing right and left.

The county commissioners also "laughed" at the Barkley township taxpayers. Just watch Barkley "laugh" at the commissioners a week from Tuesday.

None of the candidates on the democratic county ticket will, if elected, turn the county's own money over to the county under protest.

Let every Democrat arrange his business so that he can give election day to the service of the party. No Democrat can afford to neglect his duty as a citizen on the 6th day of November.

Said a republican office-holder from one of the out-townships to us one day this week: "I am a republican, but I think an investigation of the county books would result in much good, and I shall vote the democratic county ticket this election."

Jesse Grant, the youngest son of General Grant, has left the republican party and is working with all his might in California for Bryan. General Sherman's son is also for Bryan, and so are the sons of nearly all of the conspicuous generals who fought for the Union.

Every good citizen is interested in preventing the sale of votes. For every vote purchased the county becomes liable for \$100 reward, to go to the briber, and a man who is rascall enough to buy a vote is scoundrel enough to betray his victim and claim the taxpayer's money.

Don't lose sight of the fact that the democratic candidates on the county ticket are pledged to make an investigation of the county records, if elected, and they are men who will faithfully carry out every pledge made to their constituents. Such investigation will result in the recovery of thousands of dollars to the county that has been illegally paid out.

A vote for the democratic county ticket is a vote to open the books.

The Transvaal war, says Lord Roberts, is over. Nothing remains except to whip the Boers.

Every democrat should be on his guard against the huge corruption fund of the republicans. It is not only intended to buy votes wherever possible, but to corrupt election boards as well.

If Nelson Morris is to have one-half his Keener tp. gravel road taxes remitted on condition that he drop that embarrassing lawsuit, why not remit one-half of the gravel road tax of the poor farmers of Keener? Morris is a millionaire and could make Rome bow, but those other fellows—Oh, well, we suppose the commissioners will "laugh" at THEM.

Jasper county farmers should not lose sight of the fact that prosperity has given them a sort of a left hander in the solar-plexus. During the past three years mortgages were executed in this county to the amount of \$342,821 more than were paid off, as shown by official reports in the State Statistician's office. The exact increase in number for these years was 1,295.

Yes, the commissioners "laughed" when one thousand of the heaviest taxpayers of the county petitioned them for an investigation of the county records. There is an old adage that "he who laughs last laughs best." Unless we mistake the sentiment of the taxpayers of Jasper county they will do the "laughing" Nov. 6, and the same commissioners who "laughed" at their petition will be the objects of their merriment.

The election of the republican county ticket this fall means a farewell to all hope for an investigation of the county records for all time. If the people want these records opened up and recover the thousands of dollars that has been illegally paid out, the democratic county ticket MUST be elected THIS fall. The republican candidates dare not make the investigation, and after this fall it will be forever too late to recover these sums, the statute of limitation protecting the looters.

The Barnicle says that the board (meaning the board of commissioners) only laugh at THE DEMOCRAT's question as to what service Mrs. Frances E. Bostwick (the barnacle editor's daughter) performed in the late Gifford railroad election by which Jasper county was under any obligations, legal or moral, to pay her \$12. Certainly. They will also "laugh" when we ask how a public officer's account can be overdrawn \$5,163.29, in addition to all fees collected by him, for four years services when the total salary for the four years was but \$4,800!

Taxpayers, don't forget that the republican candidate for State Statistician is—or was—the president of the Township Trustees Association of this state, and that this organization fought tooth and nail against the township reform law. B. F. Johnson is the candidate of the opposition to the county and township reform laws, and the opposition to these laws also succeeded in nominating candidates to the legislature who are pledged to repeal them. They are the most wholesome laws for the protection of the taxpayer that were ever placed upon the statute books. They have saved thousands of dollars to the people of Jasper county, and, while not perfect, they are a great step in the right direction and should merely be strengthened in the weak places, never repealed. Remember this and vote accordingly. We hope you will profit by it.

Among the many false pretenses on which Mr. McKinley's campaign for re-election is being conducted none is more disreputable or more positively insulting to that half of the American people which will not vote for him than the pretense that to oppose Mr. McKinley now is to give "aid and comfort to the enemy"—the Filipinos. No man, we are told, can support Mr. Bryan or condemn the war that Mr. McKinley is carrying on in the Philippines—a war, remember, of his own beginning, which Congress never has asked to declare or assent to—without becoming responsible for the continuance of that war. Democratic voters in this part of the country, at least, will not be dismayed nor deterred from voting for Bryan and against the unconstitutional, un-American and extremely dangerous policy of Mr. McKinley in the Philippines by

Refuses to Be Held Up Again.

Mr. Elmer Wilcox of this place who holds a position as railway mail clerk with headquarters of his division at Louisville, Ky., some days ago received the following letter from the corruption fund collector in Kentucky. Mr. Wilcox has always been a republican, but the present administration is a little more than he can stand. Below we publish the letter in full and Mr. Wilcox's reply to same:

Mr. E. J. Wilcox,
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Sir: Developments indicate conclusively that by means of coercion, very closely approximating blackmail, all the large corporations (including the railroad interests) have been compelled to make immense contributions to the Democratic campaign fund. The gamblers of this city pay large weekly assessments to the same fund, and all State employees, are openly and shamelessly assessed 30 per cent. of their salaries to swell this tremendous corruption fund. The use of this large amount of money greatly endangers the election of Yerkes and McKinley and Roosevelt. In this emergency and to counteract to some degree this open and lavish use of money to debauch this State, this committee makes a final appeal to you, as one who is being benefited by the Republican administration, for a more liberal contribution than that with which you have favored us. The questions we desire to submit are brief and explicit:

(1) Is not your present position more secure and tolerable than it would be were Mr. Bryan President?

(2) Is it more than fair that those who are receiving benefits from this administration should contribute liberally to its continuance?

(3) Are you entirely satisfied that the restoration of civil liberty in this State will ever be effected until power is given to the Republicans and their honest Democratic allies sufficient to accomplish this desired end?

(4) If the Democratic managers can assess and collect 30 per cent. of the salaries of State employees, cannot you afford to pay at least 5 per cent. of your annual salary, which will be faithfully and conscientiously used in defraying the legitimate expenses of our campaign?

Upon your answers to these questions will depend your action relative to the request above indicated.

Very truly yours,

J. A. STAFFORD,
552 W. Jefferson St.

I have been commissioned by the State Campaign Committee to collect funds, and in making a contribution to me you do not in any way violate any provisions of the Civil Service Law.

J. A. S.

MR. WILCOX'S REPLY.

Rensselaer, Ind., Oct. 23, 1900.

Mr. J. A. Stafford,
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 10th inst., explaining the imperative necessity of a contribution from me to the republican campaign fund, and stating your reasons for asking same, is received. I may say, however, that since I am not a resident of Kentucky, I have no special interest in the election of Yerkes for Governor, and, as regards the national republican ticket, I beg to state that I cannot support the present administration as it has been carried out during the last three years; neither do I approve of the principles advocated in their present platform. That you may know my exact position in the campaign now before us, I take the liberty to answer the questions which you have submitted, for I think the questions are excellent, from a republican standpoint.

(1) The Civil Service Law is the will of the people expressed through their representatives in Congress until this law is repealed, Mr. Bryan nor any other person can seriously interfere with its operation. When the whole people desire its repeal, it will be because of a better substitute.

(2) It is a fact that those receiving benefits from this administration have contributed liberally to its continuance. From the reports in the newspapers, it appears that all the trusts, railroad corporations, iron and steel manufactures, and all others who are benefited by the present administration have raised a campaign fund never before equalled in the history of this country.

(3) This being a question in which I am not interested, I beg to pass it by with the hope that the present disturbed condition of affairs in your state may be speedily corrected by proper legislation.

(4) I am not quite sure that the Democratic managers are assessing state employees in the shameful manner which you indicate, but be that as it may, employees under the Service are not required to make any contribution whatever. A campaign fund may be a necessity, but the immense amounts of money thus employed at the present day, like misappropriated charity, are in my opinion, productive of more harm than good.

I answer your letter only to put myself on record as being opposed to the principles advocated by the republican party platform, and not for any purpose of argument, since I know that is not desired; neither will my position in the Service all me to enter into any discussion of politics. I had rather support a candidate, the fancied objections to whom are vague and imaginary, than one whose known policy is so much at variance with the ideas of the founders of this Government, and whose party seems to indulge the idea that the greatest good should be done for the smallest number. I am,

Yours very respectfully,

E. M. WILCOX.

the Republican party's revival of its favorite parrot cry of "treason." They are not disposed to retort in kind to this campaign claptrap, because they have no taste for that strained and cheeky style of argument which, if put into plain terms, declares that a clear half of all the voters of the nation, somewhere between 7,000,000 and 8,000,000 of American men, are at heart traitors to their own Government, bent upon dishonoring its flag and destroying its power. Republicans have had exclusive use of this order of "campaign thunder" in the past, and we trust the day will never come in which Democrats will care to steal it from them.

Let's see, on June 12th last the Jasper circuit court was convened in special session to try the Iroquois ditch case. The case was heard and Judge Palmer took it under advisement, saying, we are informed, that he would render a decision within 60 days, the time allowed him by statute for so doing. Now then, July, August, September and October have gone by—four months or about 120 days, and still no decision. The people of Jasper county may confidently look for a decision soon after election, however. The Wakarusa ditch case has been in the Cass circuit court for about two years and we hear nothing from that. The Hinzman Bros. case, the W. B. Burford case the Jasper County Telephone Co. case, and perhaps a few others that we fail to recall now, in which Jasper county is a party, involving altogether \$15,000 to \$20,000, are evidently being held up in the White circuit court by this county because it "might hurt the party" to have the cases tried and decided before election. How long, taxpayers of Jasper, will you submit to this thing? Is it to your interests to foster a political ring having the power to hold up courts in this fashion?

Closing Out Millinery Sale.

Mrs. C. E. Hershman, near the depot, is closing out her Millinery goods at cost. She has a full line of latest style pattern hats which she will sell at prices that will surprise you. Call and see her stock and get prices.

A Plain Talk To the Plain People.

THE DEMOCRAT, in the closing days of this campaign, desires to have a plain, heart to heart talk with the plain people of Jasper county. By the word "plain," we mean the business man, the farmer, the mechanic, the laborer—the men who produce the wealth and pay the expenses of our local government and not the professional politician and tax-eater. We speak of local government in particular because that is closest to the people. The township and county government costs you more money directly than does the national government, and therefore you should at least be as deeply interested in the selection of your local candidates as you are in the selection of those to the highest office in the land. In the two and one-half years that the writer has had the honor of presiding over the destinies of THE DEMOCRAT this paper has at all times been an honest and fearless exponent of the cause of the people—and, please God, so long as we are permitted to remain on this sphere and conduct a newspaper, it shall continue to battle for the cause of the masses.

More than two years ago, THE DEMOCRAT, single-handed and alone, began the fight for lower taxes and a more economical county and township government. It pointed out abuses right and left; showed how the people's money was being squandered and absorbed by the tax-eating class; made comparisons with other counties and proved beyond contradiction that our county government in many instances was costing more than almost any county in Indiana, even though the population and amount of business necessarily transacted was but one-fourth to one-tenth that of most other counties. For exposing these methods of parting the people from their money we were persecuted by the tax-eaters, arrested time and again without reasonable cause except that we were interfering in long-established customs in Jasper county—the custom of fleecing the public.

While one wing of the tax-eaters was hatching up new schemes to "down" THE DEMOCRAT, another wing was sedately telling the people that everything was lovely and the goose hanging high; Jasper county's tax levy was down to the lowest possible notch, and couldn't be reduced a solitary penny; all THE DEMOCRAT's statements about mismanagement of county affairs were lies; THE DEMOCRAT editor was the biggest liar that ever came from Remington; the \$4,000 loan was all right; the stationery and other steals were perfectly legitimate; the wolf scalp bounty had to be maintained or the wolves would gobble up all the chickens in the Rensselaer chicken-coops; there were no steals in the court house contracts; the Keener township gravel road—like the war in the Philippines—was about done, the money being honestly expended, and the Lord only knows what else. It is a fact that every charge of extravagance or mismanagement was denied by the court house ring.

Now, what was true of all this? Time has proven nearly every statement of THE DEMOCRAT's to have been true in every particular and an investigation of the county records will show that the rest of its statements were also true. The county council gave the lie to the misrepresentations regarding county expenses, by reducing the tax levy 20 cents on each \$100 valuation without injury to any branch of county government. Everything has jogged along without missing a cog, and while some of the old-time tax-eaters have had to seek other vocations and the wolf growing business has not been quite as profitable as of old—\$50 has been paid for wolf scalps in the last year, against about \$400 for the previous year—and we have heard of no great calamity befalling the people in general by reason of this reduction in taxes. The numerous lawsuits instituted against the county, by Heinzman Bros., W. B. Burford, Nelson Morris and others, have proved to everyone that the rottenness in Denmark as shown by THE DEMOCRAT was not overdrawn, and petition signed by almost 1000 of the county's heaviest taxpayers, irrespective of political faiths, was presented to the commissioners asking for a complete non-partisan investigation of the county records. That petition was given the cold shoulder because the officials dared not make the investigation. They dare not make it now or at any future time. Two of the members of that board of commissioners who turned a deaf ear to this big list of prominent petitioners are to-day asking for re-election to office. Their election means that