

LOTS OF GALL--FEW FACTS.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a communication, signed by J. W. Laws and J. J. Aragon, as officers of the so-called taxpayers committee of Lincoln county. A perusal of the article displays the existence of an abundance of gall in the men who attached their names to it; its venom and vituperation are evident and its pretended statement of facts create surprise in the minds of honest men that such men as the two mentioned would lend themselves to such a proposition.

As to the statement that Councilman Hewitt "sanctioned" the passage of a bill in the council, ceding to Socorro county a "fine tract of grazing land, consisting of 270 square miles, in which there are several large sheep and stock men who pay quite considerable taxes, for 18 square miles of lava bed in the Mal Pais country," besides paying to Socorro county \$11,000, we have this to say: The strip of land ceded to Socorro county, as shown by the map, is 30 miles long and either 4 or 7 miles wide. There seems to be a jog in range 9, and it appears on the regular New Mexico map to be three instead of six miles in width, and the new line between Lincoln and Socorro counties is one mile east of the range line between 9 and 10. So if range 9 is only three miles in width, the territory ceded to Socorro county is 4x30, or 120 square miles in extent; or if range 9 is a full township in width, the strip is 7x30 and contains 210 square miles. This territory has never been considered as having any value and stock can exist there only in the rainy season; for there is no water except on the surface, and there is not a single ranchman that anybody knows, outside of the Lincoln people, living on the strip. Men who have lived longest in this county have regarded that section as the least valuable of the county's domain; and the fact that it has remained unoccupied all these years, and is still unoccupied, refutes the statement in the Lincoln article, bears out the opinion of the old-timers and causes no one who is acquainted with the facts to envy Socorro county her acquisition.

On the other hand, we received from Socorro county nine townships, 18 miles square, 324 square miles of territory, that has more than fifty homesteaders, a dozen stockmen, some patented mines and valuable improvements, about six miles of railroad, making a total valuation of at least \$60,000. In other words, Lincoln county will collect taxes annually from the attached strip of from \$1,500

to \$2,000, and in return will pay in interest annually on the \$11,000 bonded indebtedness the sum of \$550. Not one cent of taxes is derived from the "fine" tract of land ceded to Socorro county. In addition to all this, the people of that portion of Socorro county, now attached to Lincoln county, petitioned the legislature to place them in Lincoln county, and Mr. Hewitt would not have performed his duty to his constituents had he failed to do all in his power to accomplish that purpose. Let the people themselves say whether or not we have been benefitted by a change of boundary lines.

The communication also attacks Commissioners Taylor and Wingfield for ordering the election, on the grounds that the bill, under which the election was ordered, was not properly signed. The commissioners had a certified copy from the Secretary of the Territory that the bill was passed by both council and house and that the Governor allowed it to become a law by limitation. This should have satisfied most any reasonable mind; and the fact that the session laws, which have since been published and distributed, contain this bill, showing that the claims of the Lincoln people are entirely at variance with the facts. So far as the commissioners were concerned, it was not a question of whether they favored Carrizozo or Lincoln, individually, but the law is mandatory, and it was their duty to call the election if they found the requirements of the law had been fulfilled. And as to Commissioner Taylor being disqualified because he is interested in Carrizozo, that is so far-fetched that it needs no refutation.

The article states that the editor of the News backed down and acknowledged his mistake as brought out in a former article by Dr. Laws, and adds that we have other mistakes to correct. As a matter of fact, we know that we make mistakes—an admission that our correspondents won't make, though, God knows, they owe it to the people—and we do not sit on a pedestal and, Pharisee-like, thank God that we are not like other men. We are willing to grant to others what we would ask for ourselves, and claim no merit in refraining from the indulgence of abuse, calumny and vilification; for these should be avoided by all gentlemen. However, Dr. Laws and Mr. Aragon fail to state what other mistakes we have made in this county seat controversy, but they assert that we will not, to use their words, "correct other mistakes until he

sees that his political future is endangered." We thank these correspondents for informing us that we have a political future, and assure them, now that we have discovered such to be the fact, that we will endeavor to get along the best way possible, even though, as the article intimates, we are to be denied their support. They refute their own argument later on in the article, by asserting that the "News is owned by Mr. McDonald and the editor of which is but the mouthpiece of the Carrizozo boosters." Now, these two statements don't jibe, and one or the other must be an error; and all can readily see that men who make such statements, and make them as facts, and have nothing upon which to base the assertion further than a mere opinion, proves conclusively that they, in these assertions about the editor of the News, are endeavoring to create prejudice in the minds of the people, and it appears to be their purpose to obscure the real issue and attempt to make capital out of an attack on some of our people. The entire article bristles with this particular kind of "argument," made by men in a losing cause. If the people of Lincoln county take to that kind of "argument," we are willing to confess that the Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce, the News and others upon whom the writers vent their spleen have made the wrong kind of campaign; for they failed to use that "uglier and stronger term" that a celebrated ex-president avoided, and have extended to their opponents the same privilege they have asked for themselves—that a discussion of this question on its merits.

They tell us also that a representative of the Chamber of Commerce attempted to corrupt Mr. Peter A. Schmidt, deputy probate clerk, by offering hush money, and assert that they have letters to bear out the statement, and proclaim their willingness to publish them. These correspondents fail, nevertheless, to produce these letters for publication, notwithstanding the assertion, and ignore the fact that the campaign is drawing to a close and there is only a limited time to answer such a charge. We know of no letters appealing to Mr. Schmidt for his silence, but we do know this much, because we were present and heard the conversation between some individuals who were talking to some members of the committee, and it was this: Someone suggested that Mr. Schmidt's services could be secured to the committee, as he had no interest in the county and that he was going to leave the terri-

tory after the election. The chairman of the committee said: "Let Schmidt go to the devil! I would not give 50 cents to stop him."

The article announces that Mr. Schmidt will meet the editor of the News or the Chamber of Commerce in joint debate, and names Capitan and Corona as meeting places. This challenge the Chamber of Commerce accepted, and fixed upon Saturday, the 14th, at Capitan, and Monday, the 16th, at Corona. These dates did not satisfy the Lincoln people, notwithstanding their anxiety for a joint discussion; so they were allowed to supply the dates. The dates for the joint debate, agreed upon by both parties, are Corona tomorrow, the 14th, and Capitan Monday, the 16th. If anyone believes that Carrizozo is unwilling to meet the issue squarely, his presence on these occasions will cause him to abandon that idea.

As to the creation of counties, our correspondents certainly err as to the failure to make a new county by the last legislature, with Clovis as the county seat. Curry county was created, Clovis was made the county seat and a complete list of county officers appointed. This and the former article from Lincoln, both of which were signed by Dr. Laws, had a great deal to say about "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." If they are so insistent in their demands on others why have they failed so utterly to live up to their own preachings? They tell us of the failures to have counties created, and say nothing of the successes. In so doing did they give "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?" Let us see. Twelve counties have been organized in New Mexico during the past twenty years, and seven of that number in half that time, and four of the latter number in still less time. Five of these counties were made wholly or in part from Lincoln county. We therefore, ask the people of Lincoln county if the "holier than thou art" correspondents that have asked us to publish their articles, which are calculated to arouse enmity and which freely attack the character and impugn the motives of the people of this section of the county, are in a position to "cast the first stone?"

In conclusion, allow us to say: The man who is so ready to impute improper motives to the other fellow will bear watching himself. The man who is doing what he can in a legitimate way to retain the county seat at Lincoln is entitled to respect; for that is not only his privilege but his duty, if he believes that to be for the best interest of the county. Will honest men deny that right to supporters of Carrizozo?