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The Sun

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The Sun

VOLUME 1; NUMBER 12, EVERY FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1915.

EARLY MORNING FIRE IS HOT ONE

EXCELLENT WORK OF THE VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT BOYS.
The Price Club Bar Building Almost Destroyed By Fire of Mysterious Origin Last Wednesday Morning—Innocent-Nixon and Adjoining Property Owners Are Slight Losers

Shortly after midnight Tuesday fire broke out in the old Price Club bar building on the east side of South Main street and but for the good work of the volunteer fire department under Chief Moe King the building and contents and much adjoining property would have been a total loss. It is in the Price Club bar building, a building about a half mile, while the innocent-Nixon building was completely destroyed, as was the Fred J. Thomas building to the north.

The Price Club bar property is owned by Gust Pappas, Peter Davis and R. E. Thomas. The fire carried insurance of five thousand dollars. The insurance is payable to Price Commercial Bank under a mortgage. Pappas's loss to burned furniture and fixtures is about a hundred and fifty dollars with no insurance. The damage to their lumber stock by water and moving is slight, and is covered by insurance.

At the time it looked as though the innocent-Nixon yard was doomed as also the Thomas building, but a change of the wind helped out the fire fighters. The damage to the Thomas building is about a hundred and fifty dollars, covered by insurance. Theas, Pappas and Davis owned the contents of the bar place. They carried a thousand dollar insurance on this. Utah steam had some eight damage to merchandise and fixtures by water and smoke and the removal of goods.

There is the usual mystery as to the origin of the fire. The Price Club building was occupied on the second floor as a lodging house, while the first floor was a pool hall and Greek cafe. A number of Greeks congregated there during the evening of Tuesday and held high revelry until the early morning hours. There is a dozen or more ways the place might have caught fire. Much deserved credit is due the fire department and the boys connected therewith for the prompt response to the alarm. They worked excellently and undoubtedly saved thousands of dollars in property for innocent-Nixon and others adjoining. All of the insurances, except a thousand dollars with J. W. Hammond, was carried in the agency of R. W. Crockett & Co. This makes the third loss the latter will have paid on the Price Club building. Adjusters are expected within a day or two to settle with the boys.

HIS SUIT IS FILED

James W. Hogan of Mantle Claims Big Sum From Local Company.
James W. Hogan of Mantle has filed suit in the district court at Salt Lake City against the Price River Irrigation company and others for the collection of a note in the sum of \$14,474.19, alleged to be past due. The note is alleged to have been given some time ago at the time of the purchase from Hogan of the old Kamahebe reservoir site in Gooseberry Valley, some forty acres of patented land.

FIRE INSURANCE GRAFT BOBS UP

BARBORGIO CUTS OFF COMPETITION ON SCHOOL BUSINESS.

Looks As Though the Member From Helper Was Attempting to Divert Policies to His Own Agency—Janitors Are Named and Salaries Fixed in All the Districts of the County.

Carbon county's consolidated school board met last Tuesday with all members present. Janitors for the several buildings in the county were named and the salaries fixed. At Black Hawk there are four. W. H. McClurg, \$28; Moses Hawa, \$15; J. W. Norton, \$25; Richard Farrimond, \$15; Kendall, Mary Paine, \$25; Helper, Santo Rueda, \$45; Carbon, Mrs. E. Wells, \$19; Cameron, Mrs. Letter, \$16; Castle Gate, Kate Golden, \$20; Scofield, Mrs. Hugh, \$20; Winter Quarters, Hyman Dale, \$25; Wellington, Catherine Hovick, \$25; Price, Glen Hummermacher, \$25; Carletonville, Martha E. McKeidrick, \$15; Sunnyvale, Fred Wells, same as last year.

Miss Ida Larsen was appointed as teacher at Storrs. It was reported that ample room had been provided for the accommodation of all people by the committee appointed to look after the matter.

R. W. Golding, county superintendent of schools, was ordered to make his annual report to the board by August 25th.

The garage at Castle Gate was ordered sold for a hundred and fifty dollars and the money turned in to the board.

Joe Barboglio, the member from Helper, made a motion which was carried, that hereafter all school property be insured in bond companies, otherwise known as "the fire insurance trust." Barboglio is a "board" insurance agent at Helper and a member of the trust. This action of the board of school trustees means that the county will hereafter pay from 15 to 25 per cent more for its fire insurance than the same now costs. It also looks as if Barboglio was attempting to turn this business to himself and his Helper bank. The bank and others connected with it are also insurance agents. O. J. Harmon, president of the board, carries his own mercantile business at Wellington in companies not in the trust, as also does Lee S. Thomas, another member of the board, at Winter Quarters.

County Superintendent Golding was instructed to report to the board the names of all Carbon county teachers who have failed to attend the Utah State Teachers' association.

Miss Ina Scott is to teach English and elocution in the Carbon County High school at a salary of a hundred and ten dollars monthly.

BOOSTING THIS VALLEY

Ernest Hall Inducing Numerous Settlers to Come to This Section.
Ernest Hall, owner of Riverview addition to Price, was here this week from a trip to Dyer and other Montana towns. He brought with him Lee Backlund, a miner of Butte, who has invested through Hall in forty acres of farming land out on Miller Creek, five miles from Price. Mr. Backlund returned yesterday to the Montana mining city and will bring his wife and family here to reside. He expects to interest others and figures there are a dozen or more persons of his acquaintance that will eventually buy and become residents of Price and Carbon county.

PAY NO MONEY TO THE NEWS-ADVOCATE

Hall departed yesterday for his home at Salt Lake City after closing up two or three matters at Price, and tomorrow he will be at Bingham. He has made several sales of town lots at Price to residents there, and at this time he is some farm land deals on. Everywhere he goes, says Hall, people have heard of Price and the splendid opportunities surrounding it and he expects to add quite an agricultural colony in the near future to this section of the state.

Lands are cheaper here, everything considered, than in any section of the country he knows of, and why they have not been sold off sooner is a mystery to most people. The markets of Carbon county, right at home, are not equaled in any other portion of the West, and he has seen the opportunities existing here and the opportunities existing here, not by word of mouth alone, but in every other way.

This year's showing in crops is going to do much towards boosting things, especially after it is demonstrated, as it will be this season, that sugar beets are a most profitable as well as profitable crop in the Price River Valley.

D. D. Lewis has taken a position with the Golden Rule store.

SMOOTH WORKER WOULD BUY FARM

TAKES IN LOCAL REAL ESTATE MAN FOR SMALL AMOUNT.

Board Bill At Mathis Home Is Still Unpaid by Abraham Johnson, From Indiana, and Sufferer From Asthmatic Troubles—Is Former Convict and Has Record the Country Over.

Some six weeks ago an individual giving his name and introducing himself as Johnson blew into the real estate office of H. W. Crockett & Co. and made inquiries about the purchase of a farm. The hour being late of the evening, he was told to call the following day and he would be shown several properties which the firm has listed and some one of which might suit him. This was agreed upon, but Johnson never came back. He stated that he was from Indiana, was suffering from the asthma and he believed that from what he had experienced in this climate Price and vicinity was just the place he was seeking.

Before taking his departure Johnson inquired if there were any people here from Indiana. He was given the names of L. O. Hoffmann, J. B. Middleton and J. W. Hammond among others, and the last seen of Johnson he was cutting across Main street for Hammond's office. Later he went to the Mathis home and there sung his farm song to M. M. Reeves. The latter took him to his (Reeves') place south of Price. It was just what Johnson wanted. He would take it, but Reeves would have to wait until he made a draft on his home bank in Indiana.

While waiting for the money to come back from the draft, which was supposed to have been made on his Indiana bank, Johnson became better acquainted with his new friend, Hammond. He was for the moment short of funds and induced Hammond to endorse a small draft for him at Price Commercial and Savings bank. Since then Johnson has not been seen around Price. The Journal of the American Bankers' association in its August number contains a picture of Johnson as Convict No. 1217, with his biography, which may prove of interest to several persons locally, and through its publicity save others from being defrauded.

"Abraham Johnson, an old offender, is again operating. He is using the same methods to entice and members are warned to feel their eyes for his appearance. This man comes into your town, calls on a land owner and makes all the necessary preparations to become the rightful owner of a farm which he has selected and on which he intends to settle.

"At the proper moment he requests the impressed land owner to introduce him at the bank. They call at your bank. He tells of fortunate districts in different banks of Kentucky or other states, related of his experience as sheriff of Casey county, Ky., some ten years previous, and concludes his well rehearsed tale with a statement that asthma is troubling him to such an extent that he has selected your town for its splendid climate and has decided to stay and make the best of things.

"Why, of course, he is O. K.," assures the land dealer. So Johnson's check is cashed and another bank is swindled.

"He is 54 years, five feet six inches, 100 pounds, slender build, medium chestnut hair, brown eyes, sawtooth complexion, born in Indiana, miller by occupation. There is a dim scar on his left wrist, outer, and a hair mole to the left of his nose."

Johnson left behind at Price an unpaid board bill at the Mathis home and a watch and coat with J. W. Hammond. The latter was given or left as partial security with Hammond because of his endorsing the draft of Johnson.

CARBON COUNTY NOW WORSE THAN BROKE

Extravagance, Incompetency and Waste of Funds Make the Bull Moose Administration the Limit.

The annual financial report of Carbon county for the year ending June 30, 1915, prepared by E. S. Horsley, county clerk, approved by the board of county commissioners and ordered published by them, made its appearance in last week's issue of the News-Advocate. It is buried on the patent inside of that publication, alongside of Lydia Pinkham, little liver pills, kidney cure, pile salve, pale pills for pink people and similar advertising—a position where newspaper readers would never suspect matters of local interest. The burial of the report thus is no doubt intentional by those most concerned. While the report is vague in many respects, yet it succinctly shows that the "bull moose" administration has during the past year been true to its previous history in its reckless handling of the public funds, and its entire disregard of the statutory limitations placed upon the power of the board of county commissioners in the creation of county debts.

Much of the report deals in generalities, so that it is extremely difficult to analyze, as for instance among the disbursements is contained an item, "general expense \$5,211.46." Whether this money has been donated to administration pets, or whether it has been expended for legitimate purposes is not indicated, and any taxpayer who might desire to know what the \$5,211.46 had been expended for would have to go over the county books and figure it out for himself. There is also an item of disbursements which shows "premium on county officers' bonds \$1,015.00." If the Sun is correctly informed there is no statutory authority for the county commissioners to pay the premiums on the bonds of county officers. County officers are paid salaries, and are required to furnish their own bonds. There is certainly nothing in the defined powers of the county commissioners which authorizes such an obligation to be incurred on behalf of the county. This being true, the official ring in office have by means of such appropriation mulcted the taxpayers in that one item out of more than a thousand dollars.

Carbon County Worse Than Bankrupt.

The indigent poor fund item is represented by \$3,626.77. This would seem to be a very large expenditure for that purpose, as it represents a very large percentage of the moneys available for the operation of the county's affairs. We assume that the indigent poor are very grateful to the progressive administration, while the indigent poor taxpayers may well investigate the detail of the large item so represented, particularly with a view of ascertaining the reasonableness of such appropriations, and in cases where supplies have been furnished, the prices should be examined, and the Sun has no doubt but that the bulk of that item is represented in appropriations to "bull moose" merchants who have charged a plenty for all supplies furnished.

An item is indicated of \$9,920.00 for work on roads and bridges. Probably one-third of this sum would represent the grand total of value flowing from that expenditure. In the statement of receipts \$258.00 is indicated as the aggregate amount collected during the year for poll taxes. This would indicate that about 10 per cent of the legitimate poll taxes is being collected in the county. The report also shows that the county is worse than bankrupt. BONDED TO THE LIMIT WITH OVER \$100,000.00 OF BONDED DEBT; MORE THAN \$16,000.00 IN WARRANTS OUTSTANDING; \$14,000.00 IN NOTES AT BANKS; NEARLY \$20,000.00 IN COURT JUDGMENTS, AND AN OVERDRAFT OF OVER \$2,000.00 BESIDES!

Fortunate That Property Isn't Portable.

The statement is approved by the commissioners and sworn to by the clerk, and about the only satisfactory surprise that it contains is in its detail of general assets, consisting of county property, which shows that the court house, the poor house, some county bridges and a pethouse are still owned by the county. It is a fortunate fact

that this property is not portable. The most cursory examination of the statement will convince any intelligent reader of the utter inefficiency of the county officials, who are managing the affairs of Carbon county. The earmarks of favoritism, and of extravagance are everywhere apparent, and when the taxpayers receive their statement of taxes, as they will in the course of a few days, they will be appalled by the tremendous rate of increase in the tax levies resulting from such incompetency. IN THE CITY OF PRICE THE AGGREGATE RATE WILL BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 7 PER CENT.

It is little wonder that citizens of this community have at different times effected organizations for the purpose of entreating the sheriff to grant permission for the conduct of business in violation of law. Between the two oceans there is not another community with anywhere near as high a rate of taxation. No man can make an honest return on his property valuation, pay the taxes, and preserve his property from confiscation, if engaged in the conduct of legitimate business. The favorites of the administration, as might naturally be expected, are taxed at a comparatively low valuation, and this fact together with the favoritism shown to them in other ways by the board of county commissioners enables some shaky institutions to survive, even under the extravagant system in operation in this county. That the commissioners paid as high as nine dollars per thousand to Stevenson for lumber above current market prices is a fact well known to all the people who live here, and is an illustration of the sublime beauties of progressivism as it is engineered in Carbon county.

No Interest Paid On County Funds.

Barboglio's bank at Helper holds the county funds, upon which it pays no interest, at the same time loaning the money back to Carbon county at 8 per cent, while the warrants of the county in the hands of the general public bear but 5 per cent interest. That the bank of Barboglio and County Commissioner Hamilton is being handsomely rewarded for the trick its officers turned in behalf of the "bull moosers" in the last election is indicated in the financial statement of the county. Those taxpayers who voted the progressive band into power are receiving just what they voted for, and they are ignorant indeed if they cannot see that property values in Carbon county will never return to 50 per cent of normal until these men are displaced, and an economical and intelligent business administration is given the supervision of county affairs. Your prudent man will never buy property in a community burdened with a tax of 7 per cent, never—NEVER. Economy of administration expenses can only effect a decrease in taxation, and a decrease in taxation is the strongest factor by which enhanced property values are influenced. Public funds are being continuously diverted into improper channels—thousands of dollars have been uselessly wasted in futile litigation, and in feathering the nests of the political henchmen of irresponsible servants in whose hands have been placed the affairs of Carbon county.

Now the grotesque spectacle is presented of a bunch of church deacons and others who make serious claims to respectability, seriously seeking to influence the sheriff to permit the opening of bawdy houses and the utter disregard of law on the part of the saloonists in order that their business may continue to exist under the burdens resulting from the election of incompetents to public office. This suggestion is not intended to apply to Sheriff Henry, who had the manhood of scornfully rejecting the criminal overtures made to him, and who has expressed himself as being heartily ashamed of the political bosses who have sought to induce him to disregard his oath of office in order that they and their friends might be able to reap a profit from criminal practices.

Benfer's Graft Is Working Smoothly.

Under the heading of "books and stationery" it will be noticed that the sum of \$2594.92 was spent the past year. For the same time ending June 30, 1914, the expenditure was \$1741.79, an increase for the year of \$843.13. For the year ending June 30, 1913, the expenditures for books and stationery totaled \$1301.85, so that for the past year the cost of books and stationery was almost double what it was when the "bull moose" crowd went into office. This is explained by the fact that under the "bull moose" and democratic commissioners there has been no competition on printing. Local people, nor outsiders for that matter, have not been permitted to file bids on the county's work. All has been handed over to Benfer, socialist, of the Carbon County News (News-Advocate). On publications in the News as much as 30 to 40 per cent is paid Benfer in excess of what the same would cost if it had been done by the old Advocate or The Sun. The rates

(Continued on page four.)