Bypaths of Kansas History

OPTIMISM IN DOUGLAS COUNTY IN 1856

The following letter was among other papers generously donated to the Kansas State Historical Society by Mrs. Sidney Milbauer of West Hollywood, Cal.

DOUGLASS CNT K T JAN/23/1856

To I J Oakley

Dear Sir

I take up my pen to write you a few lines & let you know how we are & how we fare we are all well excepting myself & I have had a cold & it has fell in my head & causes me a great deal of pain but I am on the mend & hope I shall soon be able to get about again I arrived in this country the 25th of July last all well after a travel of 33 days averageing about 30 miles per day with two hor[sle] teams & two waggons there was nine of us all told the two oldest boys having gone on a head and taken up claims to prepare for our coming they had broken up near forty acres of prairie & got in corn planted by dropping in the furrow & turning the sod of the next furrow right on it which we call here sod corn it was late in June before they got it in & when I arrived on the 25 of July I did not believe we should get anything but stawks but the soil is so strong that we had 7 or 8 hundred bushels & the greater part good ripe corn

The country here is very different from your land you can make your fields here as large as you pleas & it lays most beautifull the land lies rolling on the prairie but along on the river it is somewhat hilly there is plenty of timber on the streams & in the ravines & some pretty heavey but not of as good a quality as in our western states but there is plenty of lime stone & coal & the climate is a little more mild than in your state since the 20th of December we have had good steady winter weather with about 6 inches of snow & when the wind blows it is piercing cold but the weather now looks fine & we anticipate an early spring you must not expect me to tell you how wheat & many other things do here for you must recollect that last year this time there was not an acre broke in all this vast land and all that has been done is since last April there has been nearly corn enough raised to supply the wants of the settlers potatoes squashes melons and every thing we put in the ground turned out well the sod could not be disturbed after it was laid over & every thing had to do the best it could after planting with out stirring the ground this year we will have a better chance on ground that was broken as for hay you could get any quantity of it you pleased & I think as good for stock or horses as our best timothy

I never saw or tasted better beef any where which you could get a plenty of at from 5 to 7 cents per lb. sheep we have very few of as yet hogs plenty & you can buy fresh pork at 7 cents now flour is 6 dollars per hundred corn meal 12.50, corn 75 cents per bushel potatoes, 1 dollar Beans 3 dols per bush[el] sugar 12½ c per lb molases 75c per gallon dry goods & groceries in proportion but enough of them

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Lawrence is quite a place in one year's growth containing 7 or 8 stores about 50 houses 3 saw mills & about 1000 inhabitants the country is settling fast yet there is good chances yet & a young man with from 500 to 1000 thousand dollars can make himself indipendant in a short time wages is good for any kind of mechanic or labour & a single man without any money but willing to work could do well here I think the climate is healthy the land lies high & rooling & the watter is good we are very well satisfied not withstanding all the political troubles you hear of in the public prints you must not believe one half to be true there has been but 3 men Killed since we have been here one in a fight & 2 murdered but there has been great excitement but the free state men is by far the most numerous & cannot finally help prevailing

The 3 oldest boy's have each a claim besides my self the town lines are run in this part & the section lines will be run early in the spring & then we shall know how our farms lie & hope to go on with our improvements in better order a great many will build concrete or stone houses as we have the material for doing so in abundance there has been two lime kilns burnt on my place very good I am 8 miles west of Lawrence & 2 miles East of Lecompton which is at present the capital of the Territory & when you write direct to Lecompton K. T. I should like to hear from you as soon as possible our post office has been managed so bad we have had no news for a long time but it now is getting on a better footing . . .

I think Kansas is a very good country for farming & easy to start in on small means if a man is able to get a good breaking up team which is 3 yoak of good cattle worth here 80 dollars per yoak it costs nothing to keep them for the grass is plenty & of so good quality as to need no grain for cattle will work every day & keep fat he has the main point & can do well breaking up for those that has no team it is worth from 3 to 4 dollars per acre & you can break 1½ acres per day you can settle on a quarter section & when the lines is run enter it for preemption & you have one year allowed after it is advertised for sale by government to pay for it in which may not come around until you can raise enough to make up the sum which is 125, per acre & you will bear in mind that after the first breaking up you have an old farm with new soil for it ploughs as easy as an ash heap the soil is a black rich mould a mixture of clay sand & dead vegetable matter & just as rich as a garden

I might tell you it is cheapest for a man to get his family here by having good teams & wagons it will not cost more than half as much as to come by rail road & steamboat but then he must not put up at taverns but sleep in his wagons or tents the journey is far from being fatiguing we found it quite pleasant & was as fresh when we arrived as when we started I furnished myself with a pocket map of the states I wanted to cross & then enquired the best road from point to point & found no difficul[t]y whatever in getting along we crossed 4 states & traveled about 1000 miles, but I must draw to a close write me soon for I want to hear from father & all of you.

I remain yours truly

Joseph Oakley
BYPATHS OF KANSAS HISTORY

WHEN FORT RILEY HAD AN INDIAN SCARE
From the White Cloud Kansas Chief, August 13, 1857.

LAWRENCE, AUGUST 8, 1857.

Official evidence has reached Governor Walker, through the commanding officer at Fort Riley, that the Cheyenne Indians, in force, have reached that station, where there is no fortification, and only half a company of infantry. The commanding officer at the Fort asks for immediate assistance, "an attack being hourly expected," and the garrison filled with wives and children of absent officers and men. The official report represents that "the Indians had driven in all the settlers and committed several murders in sight of the post."

Under these circumstances, Governor Walker has sent Colonel Cooke with the whole force under his command, to the point of danger. Colonel Cooke started with the advance at 8 A.M., to-day, and by forced marches hopes to reach Fort Riley to-morrow evening, accompanied by the Governor. The rest of the troops follow immediately, and will proceed with all possible expedition. It seems to be wisely ordered by Providence that the troops who are now here so much nearer Fort Riley, should thus be enabled to reach that point in so brief a period, to give speedy protection to the garrison and settlers, and, it is hoped, inflict summary chastisement upon this hostile and war-like tribe.

Gov. R. J. Walker reported to the Secretary of State, August 18, 1857 (Kansas Historical Collections, v. 5, pp. 372-374), that Lt. Col. P. St. George Cooke, who was in camp near Lawrence, started for Fort Riley within half an hour after the information reached him, "and arrived at the fort in about 28 hours, including the delay in crossing the Kansas river." This, the governor said, "was a march rarely equaled, with so large a body of troops, in the history of military movements."

On arrival at Fort Riley Governor Walker and Colonel Cooke found nearby settlers and friendly Pottawatomi and Delaware Indians gathered for its defense, but the danger proved to be greatly exaggerated. The Cheyennes had indeed been operating farther west, but they were too distant, and their position too uncertain, for Cooke's troops to follow them.

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POLISHING OFF OLD BRASS
From the Topeka Weekly Leader, February 1, 1866.

A Chastising affair, says the Union, came off in town Thursday night.—Mr. Dexter, the popular and gentlemanly Agent of the Kansas Stage Company in this place, came across his former commanding officer in the army, and gave him a severe beating. As the story goes, for the purpose of some personal advantage to himself the Captain took underhanded means to get Dexter
discharged, whereby he was likely to get himself into a bad scrape; to avoid which he ordered out a detachment to shoot Dexter, on some pretext. The detachment all fired in the air except two, one of whom put a ball into him. The matter had a legal investigation afterwards, when the Captain was “broke” and sentenced to two years imprisonment. He turned up here the other day, and the first time Dexter saw him he “went for him.”

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ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE UNFAVORABLE PRESS ENCOUNTERED BY THE EARLY EXPONENTS OF SUFFRAGE FOR WOMEN

From the Topeka *Weekly Leader*, September 12, 1867.

FEMALE SUFFRAGE—Last Friday night a large and respectable audience, (Col. Lawrence was large and Ritchie respectable), assembled to hear the two famous advocates of Female Suffrage—Mrs. Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony—Col. Ritchie after consultation with Lawrence and after ascertaining by anxious inquiries that Gov. Crawford was not present, nominated his Excellency for chairman of the meeting. After waiting three seconds for the absent Governor to show that he was present, Col. Lawrence as if by accident discovered that Col. Ritchie was present, and moved that he take the chair, which he did. The thing had been “cut” so long that it smelt fishy. Gen. Ritchie upon taking the stand thundered out in a tragic voice, and without giving the audience time to prepare for it, “we’re in earnest:” which, so great was the levity and irreverence of the crowd, instead of terrifying them elicited very audible snickers. After the General had delivered himself he introduced Mrs. Stanton to the audience.

She is a buxom, gray haired matron of about fifty. It is not our intention to attempt to give an outline of her speech. It is sufficient to say that it was elegant and eloquent—everything but convincing. Her premises were generally correct but her conclusions we think, were illogical. She had posted herself on the Constitution and laws of Kansas so that her allusions to them, unlike our school girl stumpers, were correct. The great charm of Mrs. Stanton is her manner of speaking. While listening to her one feels, no matter what his feelings on the topic discussed may be, that he is listening to a pure hearted matronly woman; one who understands and conscientiously preforms the duties of wife, and mother. We would that some of the other female speakers now stumping the State, were more like her.

Miss Anthony was the next speaker. In view of the fact that Miss A. is a maiden lady, Col. Ritchie’s introduction of her as a “time honored” lady, was, to say the least, unkind. Miss A. seemed only desirous to sell some pamphlet speeches of Parker Pillsbury and other ancient ladies, at the small price of twenty-five cents each. As preliminary thereto, however, she entered into a discursive argument of the right of suffrage for females. She insisted that as men and women were of the same physical formation, (with a slight variation), their political rights were the same. Do we not, said she, suffer as much from hunger, cold, &c? “In the language of shylock, if you prick us do we not bleed?” That depends very much on circumstances we think, but whether true or false, it is certainly a very poor argument in favor of suffrage, for the same can be said of all living things. Miss A. assured the audience that Pomeroy was and Ross
and Clarke would soon be squarely committed in favor of Female Suffrage. Now we venture this prediction, and are willing to bet an old hat on its correctness, that both Clarke and Ross oppose the “pernicious doctrine,” and that Pomeroy’s business affairs will be so pressing until the election, that he will neither write a letter nor make a speech in favor of female suffrage in Kansas. We had almost forgotten to mention that Miss A. had a hat passed around for lone postals, but with such poor success that she must have felt, as did the old minister under similar circumstances, thankful that she ever got the hat back from such an audience.

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ED HOWE ON SARAH BERNHARDT

From The Globe, Atchison, March 2, 1881.

At exactly 8:31 last night, Sara Bernhardt made her appearance on the stage of Tootle’s Opera House [St. Joseph, Mo.], walking down the centre as though she had but one joint in her body, and no knees. Her first action was to shake hands with the stage company with arms as long and wiry as the tendrils of a devil fish, which wound around them occasionally with the soft grace of a serpent. Perhaps the first thing remarked of her by the average auditor is that she is almost red-headed, and that she wears her hair in tight Dutch braids. The second, that she is distressingly ugly, and that her smile is painful, because it displays a big mouth and a prominent row of butter teeth. Her nose is of the pattern referred to as a “hook,” and of her figure it is enough to say that it could not possibly be worse. In her ambition to stand straight and erect, she bends backward, but regains perpendicular at the neck and head again. Her dress was of white and costly stuff, and cut so low in front that we expected every moment that she would step one of her legs through it. She talks fast, and takes tremendous strides across the stage. Her arms were encased in white kid to within an inch of her shoulders, and whenever she pointed the villain or other disagreeable person to the door, and said, “Go!” we saw that the color of the hair under her arms was sandy. This was our first impression of Bernhardt, and the second was that a lady so ugly and ill-shapen should not, in justice to her sex, challenge the criticism and opera glasses of the public.

The smile of which we have heard so much must have distressed every one in the audience, because at no other time was she so hideously ugly. Her mouth is in a continual state of pucker, and it would be impossible for such a face to smile sweetly, or to pleasantly convey an impression of joy.

We waited patiently for the embrace for which she is said to be the champion of two countries. It came in the third act, and Armand was the recipient. He parted with her, and started to go out, but she followed, and finally embraced him by shambling up, breaking in two at the middle, and throwing her tendrils around him. It was neither graceful or natural, and only original in its awkwardness. In these scenes the middle part of her body strikes the recipient first—her arms swing wildly a moment, and then twine two or three times around the person she loves. This is the Bernhardt embrace as we saw it through an opera glass.

The Bernhardt kiss is little better. Perhaps “Camille” does not afford opportunity for this sort of acting, but there are millions of women who can
kiss a man more naturally and acceptably than Sarah Bernhardt. She has no new ideas on the subject, unless kissing on the ear is new.

The only thing Bernhardt does extraordinarily well is to put her arms around a man, and look into his eyes. If her face could be hidden at these moments, she would be sublime.

With reference to “Camille” in French, it is about as interesting to an American as five acts of a Chinese drama running three months.

The opinion will no doubt be laughed at, but we regard Mary Anderson as a better actress than Sarah Bernhardt. The circumstance is in her favor, to begin with, that she is young, pretty and innocent, while Bernhardt is old, ugly and evidently a thoroughbred, who impresses one as being cross and disagreeable off the stage. If Bernhardt was to appear in Atchison to-night, in other words, we would not come down town, but we would go to St. Joe to see Mary Anderson. If this is poor taste, we have a great deal of good company.

At midnight a reception to Governor Crittenden [of Missouri] began in the parlors of the Pacific House. Bernhardt consented to come down and watch the mob if nobody spoke to her. She stood around for an hour, and all St. Joe walked in front of her, stared her in the face, jostled her, eyed her dresses through glasses, and had a good time. At one o’clock she retired, and at nine this morning her maid shook the sheets to find her, as the time had arrived to depart for Leavenworth.

There can be no doubt that she occasionally displays wonderful power in emotional parts, but she is not well balanced in a part requiring her to appear gay and thoughtless in the first two acts, and rebellious and grief-stricken in the last three. Could a play be written introducing her as parting with a lover in one act, contemplating suicide in a second, and dying in a third those persons who go to theatres to cry softly behind their fans would be divinely pleased. Her parting from Armand in the third act was the finest piece of emotional acting we have ever seen, but her dancing in the first act was the worst.

Bernhardt, (whose name is Sarah, by the way, and not Sara,) is an elegant dresser, and continually sparkles with diamonds. No less than half a dozen elegant cloaks and wraps were brought in at different times with no other object than that the ladies in the audience might covet them. All of her dresses have trails as long as the Kansas liquor law.

Her support consisted of three fat women, her rather pretty sister, four or five brigandish looking men of a doleful turn of mind, and a funny man who looked exactly like Doc. Kistler, of Atchison.

After the play, while smoking a cigar in the Pacific House office, the writer had the pleasure of meeting Bernhardt face to face as she came up the steps from the street, on her way to her room. She was a mass of furs and wraps, and looked neither to the right or the left. We were informed by the hotel loafers that she never leaves her room, and sees no one, her meals being sent to her. On Monday evening she missed an article of jewelry, and suspicioning her maid of taking it, accused her of it in wild and boisterous language in the dining room, which was full of guests. This was all the hotel gossip obtainable.

In justice to Bernhardt, we cheerfully make the statement that a large proportion of the Atchison delegation were pleased with her, and there was a
great deal of genuine enthusiasm manifested throughout, particularly at the recall after the last act.

Tickets were sold to any part of the house in several instances at seventy-five cents, as the greedy speculators were compelled to unload. Mr. Tootle probably made a little money on the speculation, but not much.

From The Globe, March 3, 1881.

The big papers have published the biography of Sara Bernhardt four times—(1) when she contemplated coming to America; (2) when she landed in America; (3) when she played in New York; (4) when she played in the West. The people by this time ought to be pretty familiar with the fact that Bernhardt is a Jewess; that at an early age she went to a convent to be educated, but was so full of mischief that she could not be managed; she finally turned her attention to the drama, in that she became a grand success; that she caused crowned heads to bow at her feet. The rest is well known. She came to America and conquered by virtue of high art, some contend, but really by virtue of her reputation in Europe. The readers of Western newspapers will hear little more of Bernhardt from and after her departure for the East. She will soon sink out of sight, as far as we of the West are concerned, and then we will impatiently await the arrival of another foreign humbug.

Our criticism of Bernhardt is generally admired. One gentleman writes: “The man who wrote it should quit writing and seek employment in a livery stable.”

It is probable that Moody, the evangelist, will play in Kansas City this spring. With the exception of Bernhardt, Kansas City has secured every attraction now before the people.

During the trip from Atchison to Leavenworth yesterday, Bernhardt amused herself by playing a French game of cards for money, and won two hundred dollars from two of the business staff.

One of the slender women of Atchison who saw Bernhardt lately, says: “Hasn’t she a lovely figure!” One of the fat women of Atchison says her “figure” could not possibly be worse. There is an equal difference of opinion on all other subjects.

One of the detectives employed to travel with the Bernhardt party told a reporter yesterday that his instructions were to keep always near her—in the theatre, on the street, in the hotel; everywhere. A strange Frenchman follows them, and seems infatuated with the actress, who screams at sight of him. It is the belief in the company that the strange man is the miserable scoundrel who once denied his marriage with Bernhardt.

H. C. Danforth, of the Kansas City opera house, had a fight in the Leavenworth theatre last night with Mr. Meyer, the manager of Sara Bernhardt. Meyer was hit across the face with a cane, and his nose broken. Danforth received only a slight scratch on the forehead.

From The Globe, March 4, 1881.

Young Muirhead, of Leavenworth, saw the first two acts of “Camille,” and
then went out after his club. It was unfortunately in use in another part of the city, an assistant having gone to the depot to wait for Governor St. John, else most of Bernhardt's audience would have been crippled.

From The Globe, March 5, 1881.

We mention Bernhardt just once more. A Leavenworth physician who was called to see her flatly told her manager that if she fulfilled her engagement with him, she would die, as her health is terrible. She has an affliction called gastritis.

A citizen called this morning to say that his wife objected to our late reference to Bernhardt, because it had an "inference." We begged of him to tell what the inference was, and he at last explained it as his wife had explained it to him. We then assured him, as we now assure the public, that we had never before thought of it, and no such "inference" was intended. A great many of our exchanges have published the same paragraph, but so far we have seen none which have regarded it as necessary to apologize for quoting the Globe. People often do us great injustice in matters of this kind. Our position is such that we never have time to think twice. A piece of white paper is no sooner covered by the editor's writing than it is taken by the printer, and when the proof comes it is too late to change it, as the press must be started at a certain hour every afternoon. Our expressions are often blunt and homely, but we never intentionally offend modesty. We do not make this statement because these objectionable paragraphs are not well received, for the people will liberally support a much worse paper than has ever been printed in Atchison, and the surest way to sell large numbers of papers is to write recklessly, and without regard to the proprieties. But we do not care to become famous in this way, and will in the future be more careful, even though it reduces our income.

From The Globe, March 7, 1881.

The Boston girls have evidently adopted the Bernhardt smile. A news item states that three of them were sliding down hill the other day when they saw a sleigh and team in front of them, and a collision seemed imminent. Fortunately one of the young ladies had the presence of mind to smile, and the team at once ran away, thus probably avoiding a loss of life.

Roundup Time on the Plains

From The Globe Live Stock Journal, Dodge City, April 21, 1885.

Gather Round the Mess Wagon.—This is the season of the year when the cowman in the far west is perhaps most largely interested in his cattle running at large on the plains. Most of the owners of herds reside a long distance from their grazing grounds, which they visit but once a year, generally during the spring or summer months, at which time they will familiarize themselves with the general status of their range stock, as to loss sustained the preceding winter, the condition of stock, tally up the calf brand for the year, and arrange for the shipment of beef cattle from the range during the shipping season,
which usually opens up about August 1st and continues up to the time when
cold weather sets in and shuts off the gathering on range and the driving of
beef cattle to the nearest shipping point.

But the busiest season of the year with stockmen, as before stated, is the
spring roundup. Everybody that has any interest in range stock is on hand at
this time, either in person or by a representative. As soon as grass is suffi-
ciently abundant to insure good grazing for stock, the work of rounding up
and cutting out of cattle is begun. The work is usually divided up into dis-
tricts, covering a large scope of country, which is under the charge of a round-
up captain, who directs the work in hand, all stock embraced in his district
comes under his immediate jurisdiction. His orders are strictly obeyed.

Every stockman that is at all likely to have stray cattle in this scope of
country will have a force of men and horses present to assist in the general
work, proportionate to the number of cattle he may expect to find in that
particular locality. If he is a local ranchman within the district named, his
force is usually very large. If on the other hand he simply expects to find
a few stray head of cattle, his number of men and horses employed are cor-
respondingly small. The number of horses employed in a general round-up
is on an average of eight horses to the man, which of itself makes quite a
herd of stock to be cared for where a hundred or more men are employed,
which is usually the case in most of the round-up parties. This stock is kept
under close herd near the camp or mess wagons, which generally forms the
base of operations.

The following is M. S. Culver's version of a round-up, who ought to know,
as he has been there on several occasions:

First, general meeting of the hands, captain of the round-up will take charge
early in the morning, with mounted men will commence work, by first divid-
ing his men up in different squads and start them out in a circular direction
with orders to drive all cattle to a certain place and there stop the cattle.
Then will give orders for a certain number of men who know brands best to
are in the round-up and cut out such cattle as are wanted by the parties pres-
ent, first cutting out the cows with calves by their side on account of not
separating the cow and calf by running in and through the herd while cutting
out the steers and dry stock, then cut out all the steer cattle and dry stock
wanted by the parties present, and such as they want to drive for their neigh-
bors.

After the cattle are all cut out the herd that was cut from will be turned
back towards where they were driven from when rounded up to cut from, and
enough men to drive the cattle that are cut out will take charge of what is
commonly called the cut, and drive them on towards where the next round-up
will be made the same as the first one was made. The day's work is put in in
this manner, and in all cases quit rounding up in time for the men to regulate
their horses for the night. Some hobble their horses, others will turn loose,
others will herd their horses as they do the cattle.

The men in charge of the cattle on hand have their foreman, and he will
give orders where he wants the cattle bedded for the night, and how many
men he wants to herd at a time. You will bear in mind that at this stage of
the general round-up there is a surplus of hands for the rounding in of the
cattle, and as the number of cattle increases that are cut out and turned over
to the foreman of the herd he will draw on the captain of the round-up for more men to help handle the cattle in his charge, and they move on in this manner through the country up and down the different streams of water where cattle can be found until the entire country is worked over, and if the herd gathered gets too large to handle to an advantage it will be sent to some renter place by a sufficient number of men to be held until the balance of the hands will go around through the country and gather cattle and drive in to where they are then. Probably the captain will determine to send that herd in and distribute it on the different ranches where they belong and return to some set place by the captain to meet the round-up again. Now each ranch has a fixed number of hands and horses, about ten head of horses to the man, and each ranch has a foreman for his hands, who has control of his own hands, and he is subject to the orders of the captain of the round-up.

Sometimes the general round-up is divided in two or more divisions, and each division has a captain. The spring round-up generally commences in April and comes to a close in July. There is generally about 150 men on the spring round-up. Then again the fall round-up for beef to ship commences in August and will continue until Nov. In the fall or beef round-up there are not so many men used as in the spring round-up. 150 men with ten head of horses to the man will give you about 1,500 cow horses on the round-up. The most of the ranchmen have a reserve at their ranches from 20 to 30 head of horses for late and special work in the fall of the year.

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A "Mr. Dooley" Writes on Kansas Fishing Matters

The following letter, written in the humorous and satiric style of "Mr. Dooley," the mythical Irishman of fifty years ago created by the writer Finley Peter Dunne, was received by Gov. George H. Hodges from his friend and business associate, D. R. Hale of Edgerton, in 1914. The letter is in the correspondence file of the executive department in the Archives division of the Kansas State Historical Society.

Edgerton, Kansas

My Dear Guvinor;—

I know ye're a busy man but I hope Ye'll give me nough iv ye're toime t' file a mild phrotist agin some iv ye're proposed ligielachun. Whin ye took up th' reins iv governmint there was a law on th' Stachoo Books rayquirin' ivery wan who wanted t' go huntin' t' get a license. Ivry year since we've wint b'fore th' County Clerk, give him our age, heigth, precise fightin' weight an' a "Plunk" an' he'd give us permission t' hunt anwywhere in th' State ixcept on Farms, City Property an' Public Highways. Th' Dimycats thin came into power an' intended our lib'ries. They gave us permission t' shoot anny kind of game exict bur-wrs with fithers an' animals with fur. Th' poor Bunnies were unprotected. We rayspicted th' party an' th' law, laid away our arms an' ammunition, sacrificed th' friendship iv our neighbors, frinds, relatives an' our own household an' bought a Kennel iv Runin' Dogs an' th' sport wint on.

But our pleasure was t' be short lived. Th' great Edycational Instiehoons
must b' maintained. Th' little onforknit childrin that ar-re rayquired b' law t' attind school must be edycated. Again th' Dimmycratic legislachure came t' the rescoo b' puttin' a tax on Dogs. We protisted but it did no good an' we've made peace with th' Dog Tax collector an' feel that th' our Schools ar-re well supported.

But ye propose t' give us further lib'rties. By payin' a fee ye intind to give us permission t' fish anywhere except in th' Streams, Lakes an' Ponds iv th' State an' here's where we're goin' t' b' agin th' Parthy an' th' Governmint. Whiniver ye pass a law that th' "Barefoot Boy with his cheek iv Tan", such as ye was whin ye herded th' Town Cows out on th' Cedar Creek Hills, has t' pay a license t' th' State t' tie a strinh and a Pin Hook t' a Hickory pole an' go t' th' creek fishin', thin we're goin' t' be' agin ye if ye sign it. Th' Professor Double L Dyche may need money but I've got me first wan t' see yit who dont. There was Fish in BULL Creek before he was born an' will b' aither he's gone an' th' City iv Pratt wiped off th' map. If there's no other way t' maintain th' fish incubator, let's leave it perish. 'Tis th' sintimint iv manny iv ye're friends.

Yours Trooly.

"Dooley"

/s/ D. R. HALE