

HOPE, OF COURSE

To Show That the PIONEER and The Citizens of Hope Are Fair in Conducting the County Seat Campaign We Print Below a bunch of Finley Campaign Literature.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT READ THE ARTICLE REFERRED TO IN THE FINLEY COMMUNICATION WE PRINT IT IN FULL

Also Some Comments in Reference To Finley Communication

Finley Campaign Literature.

J. A. Pepper, Hope, N. D.
Dear Sir:—
Believing that the proper place to answer the questions asked in the county seat article of your last issue, is through the same medium by which they have been promulgated throughout the county, I herewith submit the above article for publication in your paper and trust that the same will appear in the next issue of the Hope Pioneer in order that all who have read the article in your last issue will have a chance to see the other side of the question while your article is still fresh in their minds.

I have signed the same as a Citizen of Finley, and would prefer to have the article appear signed in this way in the paper, although I have no serious objections to the use of my name should you, for any reason, prefer to use it.

Yours, Respy,
Frank E. Curry.

Finley, N. D., May 11th, 1908.
Editors of Hope Pioneer.
Dear Sir:—
In four article entitled, "DO WE WANT TEN YEARS MORE OF IT?" in the last issue of your paper I observed that the citizens of Hope read with interest the article in the Finley Beacon of April 30th, on the question of moving the county seat, and that the writer is credited with being a fair minded person and that you heartily agree with him, that it is a serious proposition to face ten years more of the present accommodations and conveniences.

This word, "Fair minded" is a reminder to me of the slogan of the citizens of Finley ever since this county seat question was first started, and that is, "Whatever you do, let us do it in all fairness to ALL parties concerned."

This includes, not only the residents and property owners of the towns of Hope, Finley, Sharon and Sherbrooke, but the farmers and the entire county, and in evidence of our slogan, let me cite to you and your readers the extreme fairness used by those citizens of Finley, who were instrumental in starting the present agitation regarding the removal of our county seat.

When we had our petitions prepared did we sneak out quietly and induce voters to sign? No, we went to get a large majority of voters on our petition before letting the other towns in the county know what we were doing? No. Instead we sent a man to Hope with a petition, also one to Sharon and another in the country north or Sharon, all on the same day in order, that all might know of the situation before the other parties who visited the neighboring towns was instructed to induce the citizens of those towns to get up a like petition and circulate it, thus giving those towns equal chances with Finley, if they wanted to enter the campaign and we, of course, felt that they did.

people from Sharon and Finley who go to Hope to transact business and attend lodge and other meetings than citizens of Hope who go to other towns, etc.

Now in answer to this statement I would like to call the attention of yourself and readers to our motto of "FAIRNESS," and in doing so will refer you to the official vote of Steele county for November 1906.

In this statement of official votes cast, the highest vote shown is for governor, hence we will state as a basis.

There were 893 votes cast in Steele county for the three candidates for governor, of this number Hope City cast 121 votes, Finley village cast 60 votes and Sharon, the voting precinct of which includes the whole township cast 68 votes, and we will presume for sake of argument that the village of Sharon, if it had been a separate voting precinct, would have cast about one half of that vote or 34 votes. This would make the total votes cast by these three towns, Hope, Finley and Sharon 215, which leaves 588 or over two thirds of the voters of Steele county living on farms and in the country and what is it to these 588 voters whether Finley and Sharon citizens go to Hope more than Hope citizens go to these other towns or vice versa?

As for improvement, I will admit that Hope is ahead at the present time but I will ask you to admit that Hope is 14 years older than either Finley or Sharon which towns were, until 13 years ago unknown, and I would like to ask if these towns have not had more rapid growth in these past 13 years than did Hope in the four years prior when it was the only town in the county, aside from Colgate and Sherbrooke, and had all kinds of chances to win the good will and respect of Steele county.

Again, take the population of your town in 1896, the year that the road was extended north from Hope to Anita, and note if your present population shows as good a growth as Finley. I do not ask that this be estimated upon the percentage basis, as we have increased 100 per cent in that time and such an illustration would not be in conformity with our endeavors to be "FAIR."

Speaking of your Rural Route and telephone connections with the southern part of the county I would like to say that we have Rural mail facilities under the same management as those of Hope, with railroad connections between the two, and as for telephone connections we can boast of being connected with most of the ENTIRE county, and I think Hope could boast of the same if they did not care to confine their arguments to the south side of the county alone, and if they showed a willingness to be fair in their statements.

We believe that if this were to be put to a jury, as you suggest, that it would be decided in favor of Finley, and I will tell you why.

Steele county has bought most of the coal used at the Court House at Finley, because the haul is not so great, in other words because these men have considered Finley nearer to the geographical center of the county than Hope; only last week a carload of culverts to be used east of Sherbrooke were billed through Hope to Finley because the parties in shipping them considered Finley more central for delivery, and only a few years ago a number of Hope patrons from Willow Lake, Carpenter, Colgate and Broad-lawn townships, as well as other townships in the county organized the Steele County Farmers Co-operative Mercantile Co., with headquarters at Finley and whose loads of goods have gone out of this store to the south side of the county since that time.

Why were these things done for Finley instead of Hope? Because these men "good and true" have thoroughly tried this case and have rendered their verdict in favor of Finley and were not out very long either.

In conclusion I wish to answer your

questions at the close of your last article, as follows: If I were a citizen of Hope and the population was so extraordinarily large and so much greater than that of Finley, and I was entirely wrapped up in my own personal interest and cared nothing for my neighbors, would I have cared if they cared them not I should certainly say Hope was the only place for it; but on the other hand if I could see that some other town would get more votes than my town and that the other town would, as will Finley, be more accessible to farmers and town people alike, I would not be "a dog in the manger" and refuse to let the horse eat because I couldn't, and I would frankly feel that I should step aside when it comes to a question of agreeing on a place to locate the county seat."

Honestly now, citizens of Hope and Steele county; is Hope the BEST PLACE, and the EASIEST PLACE to unite on and settle this question once for all, and settle it right?

A Citizen of Finley.

A Few Comments.

The above letter is self-explanatory, but in publishing it the Pioneer wishes to state that it does not feel that it should be asked to print Finley campaign material, but in this case we have consented to do so after consulting with our business friends who have all expressed a desire to be in the contest for County Seat, but who felt also that the article should be commented on as there appears to be some statements and remarks therein that do not seem to us to represent conditions in the proper light.

As to the first part of the article "Citizens of Finley" defending their conduct of Finley's campaign up to date, we think at least so far as Hope is concerned this is a waste of time and literary effort, for in no way that we recall has the attitude of Finley been attacked by us, as we have repeatedly stated that we had no criticism to make of other towns desiring to be in the contest for County Seat. We feel at perfect liberty to make any comparison of other towns that is warranted by facts, for in order to judge intelligently the voter is entitled to the facts, and we have asked the voters of Steele County to visit different towns and examine their claims that they may judge correctly; surely there is nothing unfair in this, and so far as Hope is concerned we think they will conduct their campaign so that none of our citizens will have that "creepy feeling" when the "tale is told" and the votes are counted.

The vote at the last General Election was a light vote, but even at that Hope cast considerably more votes than Finley and Sharon combined, even then there were 35 votes less cast than we did in the City Election four years ago. It is safe to figure on 1100 votes in the county this fall of which it will take 734 to locate the county seat. By the actual poll Hope can cast at least 185 votes and well informed citizens say 200, and this is a nice start, being as stated one fourth of the required number, and in the territory tributary to Hope there is safe to say at least as many votes as in Finley territory, and it would seem to us there should be more on account of Hope being in the center of the county east and west and not being as near other towns that draw their trade from residents of the County, Colgate being on the county line of course draws a large portion of its trade from Cass and Barnes counties.

The northeast corner of the county is 26 miles from Hope. The southeast corner 31 miles from Finley. The farmer living in the N. E. part of the county would have to drive 5 to 7 miles farther were the County Seat at Hope than he would if Finley. The farmer in the S. E. part of the county would have to travel 15 miles farther to Finley than to Hope. Of course they could take the train but as the trains pass this side of Finley, it would take them two days and one night to make the trip by train.

The farmers of the east side and northeast part of the county do not trade at Steele county town, and except for attending court or county convention, do not have to go to the county seat often, and it does not make the difference that it did years ago as to location. It is certainly not fair to Hope to say that we are trying to confine our arguments to the southside of the county alone, as we are appealing to most all of its freight shippers, and the voters in the east and northeast are fair-minded, thrifty, class of farmers, and we shall appeal to them, as to every other voter of the county, upon

the merits of our town, and if we cannot offer better advantages than any other town then the other town is entitled to their vote.

So far as Finley being nearer than Hope to the county seat, we have asked of the voter is to take the county map and count the section lines from the exact center of the county (which is one half mile south of Sherbrooke) to Finley and to Hope, and see what difference there is, and this is certainly fair.

As to shipping freight to Finley for Sherbrooke we do not know what percentage it goes to Hope and what to Finley, but do know that considerable amount comes to Hope. When Finley was first located there were cut-off roads making it nearer to Sherbrooke, but since traveling by section line there is hardly any difference at all. If there had been, Finley would no doubt have gotten the Sherbrooke mail route instead of Hope.

As to population, we do not see where Finley has anything to offer in this regard, as we will venture that Hope had as many or more people when it was Finley's age than Finley now has. But that is ancient history, lets confine it to official figures. The census of 1900 gave Finley 276 and Hope 905, an increase of 317, Hope for the two years mentioned increased from 690 to 776, a increase of 28 per cent while Finley's increase was a trifle under 15 per cent.

As to the Farmer's Co-operative Mercantile Co., we do not know very much about it, but remember that the farmers from the towns mentioned in Finley citizen's letter, stated that when they went into it was the understanding that the store was to be a retail store, and it took threatened suit to enforce collection of the stock subscribed for, and the men paid when they were compelled to, and they were men who pay their bills without the least trouble. There are farmers who trade in Hope that naturally should go to Finley, and we presume the reverse may be true, it is a man's privilege to do business in the town he chooses.

As to geographical location, there isn't 30 cents difference as between Finley and Hope, and the question resolves itself as to which town can offer the best advantages for taking care of the county business, and the best accommodations to the officials who live in the county seat, and the people who visit the county seat. All we ask is that the voters decide the question fairly and without prejudice, and refer our invitations to visit the different towns, and see which one you would prefer to locate in were you a county official, and which one can care for the county property best.

In closing the letter from Finley printed opposite, it appears to me that Prof. Curry has forsaken his oft repeated slogan of "Fairness" when he refers to Hope as a "dog in the manger," and makes the assumption that Finley can secure more votes than Hope. We assert that a citizen of Finley or Hope is abused judge as to this question, and has no right to say this, for it is certain that Hope can poll one fourth of the required amount to start with, while Finley has one-eighth, and with the northwest corner of the county split between Finley and Sharon, and the east side and northeast part to a certain extent neutral, we cannot see the grounds for this claim, and it looks very much the reverse to us, but as we are not a party to the question, we leave it to the judgment of the unprejudiced voters of the county, north, east, south and west.

As to the matter of fairness of our

campaign as compared with others, we are content to let any fair-minded person make a careful reading and study of the article in the Hope Pioneer of May 7th, entitled, "Do we want ten years more of it?" and this article is a "Citizen of Finley," and reader judgment on these two documents.

We invited Finley to produce a reason why they should have the county seat that would not equally apply to Hope, we repeat the invitation, and will go farther, for every reason given, we will produce two in favor of Hope that will not apply to Finley.

We have talked with some of the people of Finley on this question and they seem very fair in most cases, and say that the county seat should go to a railroad town, and if Hope is the

The Article.

The following is the Article which appeared in the Pioneer of May 7th referred to in the Finley communication, which we re-print here for the benefit of all who may not have read it.

The citizens of Hope have read with interest the article in the Finley Beacon on the question of locating the county seat. The writer of this article is seemingly a fair minded person, and we can heartily agree that it is a serious proposition to face ten years more of the present accommodations and conveniences. By all means, the county seat should be moved to the railroad, and this point conceded, the question is how to agree on the town to which it shall be moved. Now we have no "bones to pick" with the citizens of Finley for opening this question up, and are willing that they shall lay claim to locating has the course help but feel that under the circumstances it was a case where "discretion would have been the better part of valor."

Now we feel that in deciding this question of location, there are a few fundamental reasons which should be taken into consideration, however we will only touch on a few of them in this article.

1st. Which town can accommodate best the county buildings, the county officials, and the people who come to the county seat? Briefly among the answers to this question we would cite, Schools, Hotels, City Improvements, Electric Lights, Fire protection, etc., etc.

2nd: By locating at some point where the most people who do county business can be accommodated. Without figuring to exactness, the four townships of which Hope is the center, contains about one-fourth of the population of the county. It is safe to assume that more people living in Finley and Sharon come to Hope to transact business, than citizens of Hope who go to Finley or Sharon for business or other purposes, so that were the county seat located at Hope more citizens would be able to combine county business with business and pleasure trips, without making a special trip for the one purpose of transacting county business. Then the Rural Free Delivery and the farm telephone lines nearly the entire southern part of the county is connected with the City of Hope, and we believe we can accommodate more farmers than three other agencies than any other town.

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best place and most easily united on, and it comes to a point where Hope can get it and Finley cannot, they will support Hope, or several of them have expressed themselves in this way, but we certainly cannot be blamed if we refuse to accept the evidence of an interested party, on this question, as we are firmly of the opinion that with the three towns mentioned that Hope is by far the best equipped place, and by far the easiest place to unite on, and we believe as the campaign develops that this will become more and more evident. We simply propose to present Hope to the voters of the county, and shall endeavor to do it fairly and to the best advantage, and it is Finley's privilege to do likewise and "may the best town win."

Then comes the question of which town of the three contestants is the most easily united on. On this ground we contend that Hope is best situated so that in locating the county seat here, it can be done to the greatest satisfaction of all towns. In the first place we do not want to forget that it takes two-thirds, or four-sixths of the entire vote east, and the City of Hope has one-sixth of the vote of the county, or 25 per cent of the necessary votes to locate it.

Then Hope is far enough from Sharon and Finley so that if locating here it would not affect either town in any way, and we do not think that the citizens of Finley would be content to see the county seat at Sharon, nor the people of Sharon satisfied to locate at Finley, neither town would be hurt a particle were it located at Hope, and would in fact be benefited by being able to transact their county business both quicker and cheaper. This question of availability is one that plays an important part in every question that comes up for settlement.

We believe that were this a law suit and the question submitted to twelve fairminded men who had no interest in the county, and every town argued its case on the merits of their town, the advantages it offered and its availability, that the case would be decided in favor of Hope, and we don't think the jury would be out long either.

In this article we have simply touched on some of the points, and shall take the questions up with the voters more in detail from time to time, but we simply ask this question. Is there any argument in favor of locating at Finley or Sharon that does not equally apply to Hope? And if you were a citizen of the City of Hope and the population of your town was equal to the other two contestants combined, and could offer advantages that none of the other contestants could (in addition to all they have to offer), now frankly would you feel that you were the one who should step aside when it came to a question of agreeing on a place to locate your county seat?

Honestly now, citizens of Finley and Sharon; isn't Hope both the BEST PLACE and the EASIEST PLACE to unite on and settle this question once for all, and settle it right.

FOR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

I am a candidate for the Republican nomination for Member of Congress before the Primaries to be held on the 24th day of June next, and earnestly solicit your support.

I have in the repeal of the tariff on lumber and in a general revision of the tariff schedules. Am in favor of a national grain inspection law and in the general policies which have been advocated by President Roosevelt. I have lived in the State of North Dakota for over twenty-six years and have a thorough knowledge of the needs of our people.

I should be nominated and elected. I will use my best efforts for the best interests of all of the people and all parts of the State.

Respectfully,
L. B. HANNA.