THE MERCURY.

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G. R. KELLER, Editor

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THURSDAY, APR. 11, 1895.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are authorized to announce JOHN P. NORTHCRAFT as a candidate for Representative from the counties of Bourbon and Nicholas, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

We are authorized to announce JOHN T. HINTON as a candidate for Representative from the counties of Bourbon and Nicholas, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

We are authorized to announce JAMES FIELDS as a candidate for Representative from the counties of Bourbon and Nicholas, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

A QUESTION OF ASSESSMENT

A. F. Stone, T. J. Clifton and G. E. Keller went to Frankfort last Saturday to consult with the State Board of Assessors as to the proposed raise of 17 per cent of the assessed value of property in Nicholas County.

A detailed account of what we learned from the Board and the assessors will be found elsewhere, but it is necessary to call attention, lest the question be much talked interest to the people that we venture to tell the whole story.

When we arrived at Frankfort we asked the Board to formulate the question by which they arrived at the conclusion that we should be raised 17 per cent, we were most courteously furnished with a copy of the order, which was dumfoundered at the facts on which it rested. The Board of the State are required to furnish the Auditor with an account of every transfer made in the county during the year preceding the September in which the assessment is made. The statement should show what and to whom the transfer is made, the kind and amount of property, the amount paid, the terms of payment and the value of assessment of the property. Nicholas County's statement showed that between the 1st of September, 1893, and September, 1894, there was sold in Nicholas 1,000,000 worth of land, and that this property was assessed at only 700, or in the neighborhood of 60 per cent of what it sold for. We found that the assessment of town lots underlapped the statement of sales more even than the farm lands. The assessment of town lots had not exceeded 50 per cent of the sales price.

We then had the figures prepared showing what we were there, but being there on an errand we determined to go on with the duty, and accordingly the Board.

Imagine if you can how you would have felt to have heard the Chairman say "Gentlemen, before you proceed let me read you a conclusion I have made of the figures as we have them before us from your county records." Imagine you when any person who was present at the meeting said "I will abide by that." And he took the figures we had assessed to have fallen off, figures given above. We feel that giving your notes and assessment "a fair and reasonable trial" we should be a fair figure to fix as a basis of a reassessment that would be just to the people. We then proceeded to raise the assessment 25 per cent, and then we asked the Board if it was not a fair and just proceeding to raise the assessment for the benefit of the citizens of counties that had gone to their sales and chasers had paid more for property than it was worth, we based our figures on only 17 per cent so we have your neighbor Mason and others to thank you one show the Board that there are any reasons why the county should not be assessed at the full value of its property, we will be pleased to have them do so.

We found the Board very courteous to us, and we feel confident that they are not a fair enforcement of the law, believe were indeed.

Is not Nicholas County in a bad shape when it comes to the matter of taxation? We discussed with them a few reasons, and related, and with the exception of those from the Board, or with you, other than the law itself.

Now you have the facts as we, you can think them over at your leisure. It is well it is so.

The Nicholas County Democrat, freely on the free turnpike question, follows: In the last issue of the Democrat we published an article on the turnpike question, and the law governing the purchasing of roads, and made a statement that the people so desired, that the Legislature at the last session passed a law authorizing the Fiscal Court of Nicholas County to purchase the roads free of charge. We have been informed by a member of the Legislature, the law itself or the Fiscal Court, and that we will order a election to be held and if it appears the people are favorably disposed to the proposition, the Fiscal Court