

THE FRONTIER.

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BONDS OR NO BONDS?

On Friday, the first day of March, the people of Holt county will decide by their ballots whether or not the county shall issue bonds for \$50,000 for purposes and under such restrictions as are embodied in the law authorizing the issue of bonds for relief of destitute farmers.

THE FRONTIER considers this proposition far from just or equitable. It taxes the whole people of the county for the benefit of a few. It is class legislation: only such persons as are engaged in agriculture being entitled to benefit. The poor of the towns who are equally deserving will receive no direct benefit from the sale of such bonds if issued. Other residents of the towns who are not destitute, but heavy tax payers, will be called upon to pay their share of the taxes, while directly they will receive no benefit. The farmer who has seed and feed must pay an increase in taxes to assist his neighbor who has none. No provision is made to reimburse the men who pay the taxes. If every man's note is paid when due—which will not be the case, as no security more than a personal note is required by the county board—there is no provision that the proceeds may be applied to the redemption of the bonds. The amount must be raised by taxation of the whole people, while the amount realized from the sale of the grains will go into the treasury and benefit the man who has received aid as well as the man who has not.

And then again the law provides that the man who has no seed or feed may receive aid by making the proper showing. The law says nothing of his ability to borrow the necessary funds. All that he needs is to be without grain or money. If he has security upon which he could borrow a thousand dollars it makes no difference.

The farmer who would plant a small acreage in any other event may now plant without limit. He is in no way circumscribed.

The opportunity for fraud is unbridged.

For these reasons and others not enumerated THE FRONTIER says the law is neither "just nor equitable." But for all that, we realize that something must be done and if no better plan is presented we favor the issuance of the bonds. In this we consider that we are magnanimous. The very class that will receive the benefit of these bonds but a short time ago frowned down a proposition to bond for irrigation purposes, for the reason that they thought the taxation would not be distributed in proportion to the benefit derived. If they had voted these bonds there would now be no occasion to bond for aid. Every able bodied man in the county would have had a winner's work on the ditch, and at good wages. But this is no time for resentment, neither is it a time to repay short-sightedness with short-sightedness. The time for planting will soon be here and it is the duty of all to consider this proposition impartially and vote for the greatest good to the greatest number.

Charity is twice blessed; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes.

The barbers who are on Kautzman's "string" may properly be said to be Ham-strung.

The Jew's dialogue between "Clide and Mc" was quite Shakesperian. It was a comedy of errors.

The populist mice nibble voraciously at the cheese of public funds. A taste of patronage often proves a dangerous thing.

Some time last fall the Smudge announced its intention of cleaning out "the state house ring." When does the Jew propose to march on their works?

From the present outlook we predict that the bonds will carry. The men who see an opportunity to get something for nothing are not occupying the back seats these times.

When a small body of men met out in Shields the other night and where-ased that they are destitute and minus the wherewithal to buy seed grain when the wheat comes with its aboriginal abundance, and resolved that they would buy seed grain, and further resolved that they would buy all of Robertson's seed, they displayed a vein of humor that is not common to the general ap- plication of the law.

It would have been just as fair and a great deal less burdensome for the state to have furnished aid to its destitute farmers instead of requiring the counties to do it. It would be committing a little wrong to do a great good.

GREAT head that engineered the resolution out in Shields, which was to the effect that every man who signed the petition requesting Robertson to resign should be boycotted. This resolution followed one asking the people of the county to vote bonds for aid.

THAT prince of fakes, the Jew, in his last disgorgement of congested ideas attempts to say that a plan was laid last week to mob Roy. We cannot believe that it was anything more serious than a party of "friends"—perhaps bondsmen—organized to "spirit him away."

WHAT'S the matter with the illegal legal committee being required to furnish an itemized statement of their receipts and disbursements. Not only moneys received and disbursed, but from whom received and for what expended. There is altogether too much star-chamber business connected with the workings of this committee. The people have a right to be on the inside of this matter, and the board has no right to keep them in the dark.

MIKE HARRINGTON has filed a bill for \$250 for prosecuting Barrett Scott at his trial at Neligh. Judge Robinson certifies that the bill is a reasonable one, and therefore it will have to be paid. If this fee is all that Harrington has ever received for this same work it would not be so outrageously exorbitant, but we opine that if the inside workings of that legal committee were spread out to public inspection it would be found that he has had his fine Italian hand in for a liberal grab.

THE amount of money lost to the state and counties under the depository law exceeds \$450,000. This paper believes now, as it believed at the time the law was passed, that it is not a good measure. The county money—if it must be loaned—might just as well be loaned directly to the people as to the banks and by the banks to the borrowing class. If the public money is to be employed for speculative purposes we can see no reason for dividing the profits with the "bloated capitalists."

In looking over bills filed for 1894 THE FRONTIER ascertains that County Attorney Murphy is charging the county up with office rent at the rate of \$10 per month. Also that the county is buying his coal. And THIS IS REFORM. We await for time to disclose that other officials are charging the county up with house rent and fuel. The supervisors ought not to be so far behind in the procession; they surely are entitled to as many perquisites as Mr. Murphy. Oh! suffering Holt, when will thy sorrows cease?

THE Jew last week clipped a paragraph from THE FRONTIER, date of February 7, and tacked it onto another article, date of July 5, '94, attempting to make it appear that that the paragraph of February 7 referred to the article of July 5. It is hardly necessary to comment on this kind of journalism. Any man who will resort to such under-handed methods is certainly a disgrace to the profession. In fact, he is not a journalist, he is a bushwhacking copper-head. A point gained by deception seldom results in lasting advantage. Even populist readers will in time resent being imposed upon continually.

THE case of the county against Darr has finally reached a termination. Mr. Darr pays the county \$300. It will be remembered that that three or four years ago when the pops were possessed with an investigation devil a little bird whispered to them that Mr. Darr's books, as county treasurer, might offer a little sport if the brush were properly beaten, so they expeted them and to make it appear that time so employed was not utterly thrown away they found him short \$300. But Mr. Darr, who is somewhat of a figurer himself, turned back the musty pages of his old ledger and decided that the county was indebted to him in the sum of \$400 and secured judgment for that amount. The way the case now stands he is \$100 ahead on the deal. His gain is the county's loss, of course, and besides, there are all of the costs, which Mr. Jones will liquidate. It doesn't always pay for reformers to be too officious.

IT MAY be a little wicked to see anything humorous in the death of an old soldier, but there is a vague degree of satisfaction in learning that the old veterans of the war for the preservation of the Union got the start of Hoke Smith's pension department as it is at present conducted, even though they had to die to do it. Two weeks ago Dr. R. M. DeWitt, an old soldier, died at his home in Des Moines, Iowa. For the last two years of his life he was confined to his bed by disabilities incurred during the war. He was buried by his old comrades with all the honors he had so dearly won. Seven days after the burial his family received a notice from Hoke Smith saying his case had been investigated by the department and it was learned that he was not incapacitated from manual labor, and therefore his pension was reduced to eight dollars per month. What a commentary on our government as administered by this man Hoke Smith! Dying after being two years in bed, "investigation" showed he was not incapacitated. It is a little gratifying to know that Hoke was all of seven days to late.

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