

THE FRONTIER.

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THE FRONTIER PRINTING COMPANY
KING & CRONIN, EDITORS.

BLOOD—human blood—makes a stain that is hard to wash out of any party's administration.

SOME men can only obtain notoriety by making asses of themselves, and O'Neill has his full quota of that stripe.

If the men who buy and read the Beacon Light like the kind of stuff its editor is giving them, other people have no right to kick.

EVEN Mr. Cleveland will admit now that it has not been lack of management so much as lack of votes which has blocked his ideas in congress.

ACCORDING to a report of the senate committee on education and labor, the aggregate loss in this country on account of strikes, during the last six years, has been \$98,556,859.

AN article from the Fremont Tribune, in this issue, upon the subject of juries, is worthy of consideration. The more we see of the jury system the less we wonder at crime.

FATHER TIME's old hen is said to be setting on the egg that is to hatch a new national political party, on or about March 4, 1895. Why not hurry the hatching by using an incubator?

DESHA BRECKENRIDGE has been appointed an income tax collector, but that doesn't worry his silver-tongued pop, whose income will be much below the taxable stage after the fourth of March.

If McHugh fails to catch the O'Neill postoffice plum when it drops from the honest grasp of Jimmy Riggs, he will kick himself all over the state of Nebraska for having swallowed the nauseating rump pill last fall.—Graphic.

It is now almost universally conceded that the law under which Holt will hold a special election next Friday, is unconstitutional. If this is true, pity 'tis 'tis so. The expense of an election will have been made and no returns realized.

We understand that a number of our citizens have received the income tax blank from the department. THE FRONTIER has received none up to date and is living in hopes it may escape. However, if we are discovered we will pay up.

It is fortunate for the editors of America that the Chinese custom of beheading editors who criticize the government does not prevail with us. There are not enough American editors who have not criticized the present administration to form a corporal's guard.

DOO MATHEWS, in his Free Press, continues to chide this paper for saying that Nebraska can take care of her own poor. THE FRONTIER is not sorry for having made the statement. Nebraska is capable of looking after her destitute and if she fails to do so, more's the pity.

We notice quite an improvement in the Sun since Tom Golden has commenced writing editorial leaders. While it doesn't look overly becoming for an attorney to try a case through a newspaper, we would suggest to Charlie that he give Mr. Golden a permanent situation on the staff.

TO-MORROW is the bond election. We believe in the light of the information at hand, that the bonds will be defeated. THE FRONTIER will not be sorry. We favored the bonds because we believed it would benefit the farmers, but they, themselves, will be the ones to defeat them, and we are confident that we can stand it if they can.

It is reported that Congressman Wilson is to be given another chance to accept a college presidency. The gentleman is out of place in active politics, because his theories do not jibe with cold, hard, everyday practical life; and he should bear in mind that a college presidency in hand is worth more than a judicial position in the mind of the executive.

It is disgusting in the extreme to see our pop county officials slobbering over the men under arrest for the murder of Barrett Scott. Of course these men have not been convicted and are entitled to respect until they are, but a prudent man would not stand on the street corner and plead their case to the public. On the other hand he would hold himself aloof and once in a while remark that the crime should be punished, no matter who the guilty parties might be. It is this eternal sympathy for these suspects that has brought the populist party of Holt into bad repute.

THE State Journal of the 23rd inst. in its history of the proceedings of the senate of the preceding day said that "Tefft created a little excitement by moving that when the senate adjourn it adjourn to meet Monday at 10 a. m. It met the usual opposition, and Tefft had to explain that no farmer ought to oppose an adjournment in honor of the birthday of the foremost farmer and father of his country. Jeffries was evidently touched by this appeal, as he was the only populist who voted for the mo-

tion and it carried by a vote of 17 to 13." While it was indeed lamentable to see such dearth of patriotism in a respectable minority of the senate of the state of Nebraska, it was hardly less sad to see the same sentiment prevailing at the populist court-house of Holt county. No flag adorned the cupola that day. The populists are strangers to patriotism and have hearts so dead that to themselves they have never said, "this is my own, my native land."

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTSON, of Holt, has introduced a bill in the house which provides:

SECTION 1. Each county in the state of Nebraska shall be entitled to that number of students in the state university that will bear the same ratio to the total number that can be accommodated by the university, that the total assessed valuation of the county bears to the total assessed valuation of the state of Nebraska.

SECTION 2. Any county that shall send more students to the state university than it is entitled to as above provided shall pay to the state an amount equal to one-half the average cost to the state per student, for each and every student so sent in excess of the number the county is entitled to according to the provisions of this act; said sum to be paid as hereinafter provided.

After an impartial study of the provisions of this bill THE FRONTIER is not prepared to say, that as a matter of right, there is anything radically wrong with the measure. Counties are certainly entitled to representation in proportion to the amount of tax they pay for that purpose.

THE Fremont Tribune says: It is rumored that the next disturbance to be witnessed on the gory plains of Kansas will be a woman's rebellion. Some vigilant newspaper reporters have discovered a plot on the part of the suffragists of that state to rebel against the tyranny of man, throw off the yoke of oppression and subsergency and set up a government of their own. A fragment of their emancipation proclamation about to be issued has been published and it sounds very much like the declaration of independence which our forefathers (not foremothers, be it remembered) printed in the papers one hundred and twenty years ago, where King George would notice it and govern himself accordingly. It would be a good joke on the down-trodden males of Kansas if some morning they should awake and find themselves in bed with the babies while the women were doing military duty outside the house and were in possession of the city halls, court houses, and capitol of the state. The men of Kansas refused at the last election to grant the women equal rights of franchise and the suffragists are goaded to their present rebellious attitude because the legislature now sitting at Topeka will not re-submit the question. It would be just like the women of Kansas, haughty and strong-minded, to buy a dollar's worth of Arbuckle's coffee and dump it into the Kaw river, while they inaugurate a hair-pulling revolution, on the ground of taxation without representation.

THE JURY SYSTEM.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature providing that fewer than twelve men of a jury may render a verdict.

This bill ought to be passed. This is a country in which a majority rules. We boast of it as being a country whose policies and institutions are formed and governed by the major fraction of the vox populi. For five hundred years we have adhered to the absurd proposition that twelve men who would settle anything else submitted to them by a majority vote, when they come together as a jury to determine points of law or questions of fact between men, must all agree to one proposition before the question at issue is determined.

England and the United States are the only nations in the world which still employ the unanimous jury system. The world has gone beyond this antique custom. Even some of the states of the Union have enacted laws permitting the return of a verdict by fewer than the whole number of jurors. Every state ought to do the same. This would tend largely to the abolition of the professional jury fixers. It would be much more difficult to get three or four men on a jury for the purpose of "hanging it." It is not difficult to get one man among the twelve to do that.

It might not be well to make so radical a departure from the custom of centuries as to permit a bare majority of a jury to return a valid verdict, but it would be in the line of progress to permit two-thirds to do so in civil and criminal suits and three-fourths in capital offenses.

The state constitution provides that only twelve jurors can return a verdict, but it authorizes the legislature to provide for the rendering of a verdict by fewer than twelve jurors in courts lower than the district court.

The theory of our jurisprudence is that in criminal cases a man is presumed by the law to be innocent until he is proven guilty. If eleven men say he is guilty and one dissents, the one decides his innocence. If nine men decide him guilty the presumption of guilt should then be strong enough to convict. On the other hand under the present system if one juror insists upon a verdict of guilty and the eleven others declare for his innocence the prisoner may be put

in jeopardy again for his liberty and possibly for his life.

A majority of the members of congress, a majority of the members of our legislatures and of our city councils may enact laws for the government of the people; a majority of the judges of a state court and of the supreme court of the United States may decide whether the verdict returned by a jury is according to the law and the facts, but every one of the twelve men on the jury must agree to begin with. Why should not the same rule apply to juries?

Is there any good reason besides its being covered with the must of centuries why the unanimous jury custom should in this day of enlightenment and government of majorities, why then let it prevail, but there appears to be some very strong reasons why it should be abandoned in favor of a more rational method, and the present legislature might profitably begin the good work.—Fremont Tribune.

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