

# THE FRONTIER.

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## THAT REPORT.

The report of the legal committee is certainly a stride in the right direction. It is, however, nothing more than a stride.

There is considerable ground yet to be covered before the work will have reached its limit for diffusing much-needed information.

The report recites only what the committee has collected, judgments rendered and promises received.

It details no history of expense incurred in doing this work.

The report was signed by the committee appointed last January, although the litigation recited covers the entire life of the committee.

The report does not show that the county attorney took any part in the legal actions. The burden of the song is simply that the legal committee did this and did that.

Were it not for the numerous bills filed by Attorney Harrington one might infer from the verbose document that the committee had prosecuted its affairs independent of legal counsel.

But accept the report for what it shows upon its face. It is material that far, but the people want more: they want the inside.

They want to know:  
How much money the committee has received since its birth.

What became of it.  
How much not yet paid, that it has promised to pay.

What attorney did the work.  
If not the county attorney, why not.

How much money received by members of the committee for work as such members.

And how paid.  
If in cash, by whom paid and by whom received.

And if in cash, how came it so.

How many actions commenced by the committee that were lost, and the expense thereof.

In short what is wanted is an itemized statement; a trial balance.

If this report is honestly made the people can decide for themselves whether or not the fight we have made upon this sponge has been just. They can also judge whether or not it was necessary to employ Mike Harrington to do the work of the county attorney, and also whether or not the committee should be abolished and the county attorney instructed to do the work that properly belongs to his office, and for which he draws a salary, office rent and fuel thrown in.

In these days of populist domination every man should be a philosopher and school himself in the art of being surprised at nothing. In fact such an accomplishment is an absolute necessity to the Holt county denizen who desires to lead a life free from perturbation. The latest inconsistency in the management of local affairs is heart-rending. It is a bill filed by Clerk Bethes, in the amount of \$700, for making delinquent tax list. We do not question the propriety or the legality of this procedure. In fact we believe that under the statute the clerk is entitled to compensation for this work. What we object to is populists making a campaign against republicans for doing the same thing. When republicans received pay for this work the reformers very emphatically pronounced it a steal. In their settlement with ex-Clerk Buttler the board refused to allow his bill for similar work. They secured a judgment against ex-Clerk Hazelet for bills allowed him for the same work, and only last week we found the following astonishing paragraph in the report of the legal committee:

The legal committee intends to bring another suit against G. C. Hazelet and his bondsmen for fees for making the delinquent tax list of 1891, and which he has never accounted for.

And now to find that Mr. Bethes has filed a bill for the same identical work, right in the very teeth of professed reform, is surprising to say the least. It teaches us one thing, and that is: that these reformers are so in name only. Their actions as public officials entitle them to be known as nothing but interlopers and imposters. Reform, as we see them practice it, consists of taking all of the fees taken by republicans and as much more as they can grasp in their avaricious claws. These last observations do not apply in particular to the clerk. They apply to the whole company of reformers now in control of the county.

The Kearney Hub says "congress will soon melt away like a beautiful dream." Congress has "melted away," but it dissolved more like a "night horse" than "a beautiful dream."

## INDEPENDENT STEALS.

From THE FRONTIER, 1894.  
At every meeting of the board of supervisors they steal from the county \$186, by charging for the day before the board meets and the day after it adjourns.

By awarding the printing of the tax list to the Independent they have stolen over \$1,500 from the people of the county.

By employing more help in the treasurer's office than is necessary, and more than was employed under a republican administration, they are wrongfully spending the people's money.

By employing more help in the clerk's office than is necessary and more than was employed under a republican administration, they are robbing the taxpayers.

By allowing the sheriff two deputies when he should do all of the work himself, they are heaping additional burdens upon the public.

By recklessly plunging the county into ill-advised and losing litigation they are increasing taxes.

Employing John Morrow for a year at \$2.50 per day as assistant expert, was clearly in violation of our statute.

By calling a grand jury last fall they heaped thousands of dollars of additional debt upon the county, and the benefits derived were absolutely nothing.

Being the plurality party they are responsible for the continuance of the supervisor system, which costs the county over \$50,000 more every year than that of the commissioner.

Before election Joss Mullen promised that all the help he would ask would be one deputy and one clerk. Therefore, all the help he employs above that number is a steal, according to the words of his own mouth.

A GOOD BEGINNING FOR 1895.  
The former steals of the pops are entitled to these additions:

By refusing to accept \$50,000 and settle with Scott's bondsmen the supervisors certainly beat the county out of that amount.

By vitiating Scott's bond the pop supervisors defrauded the tax payers out of an amount equal to Scott's shortage, as the bond was worth the amount and could have been collected.  
Every cent paid Mike Harrington is a legal political steal. He has done nothing but the duty of the county attorney, and they both have received pay.

Every cent paid the legal committee is a steal, as the work they are doing belongs exclusively to the county attorney and should be performed by him.

Awarding the publishing of the tax list to the Beacon Light this year at its own figures is a steal almost as large as that perpetrated in the same way last year.

Paying the treasurer's chief clerk \$100 more per year than is allowed by law must be a steal. When republicans did the same thing the pops pronounced it a steal and said that if they were elected they would not do anything of the kind.

When the county clerk files a bill for \$700 for making the tax list, that also must be a steal. It is a steal because the populist board of supervisors refused to allow Ed. Buttler pay for the same work; and the legal committee even now say they are going to litigate with Chever Hazelet and recover from him the amount allowed by a former board for this same work.

When County Attorney Murphy went to California to take a deposition it was an expense that was entirely unnecessary.

County Attorney Murphy was sent to Mexico on two junketing tours. They were both devoid of results, other than spending the people's money.

Frank Campbell's trip to Mexico cost a neat little sum. He was there to represent the great state of Nebraska, but did not arrest his man, neither did he have him in custody for a moment. He did, however, advance Cunningham a considerable sum of Holt county money. This expense was not necessary, therefore if not a steal, was at least gross extravagance.

When the county board paid an Omaha attorney to defend Henry Murphy in the case brought against him for false imprisonment, they surely perpetrated another steal. They had no more right to pay for Murphy's defense than they had to pay for the defense of Barrett Scott, John Skirving, Chever Hazelet, Hank McEvony or even the three commissioners from whom they now seek to recover \$1,500, claimed to be short on the sale of those old bonds.

The board paid Judge Roberts for acting county attorney while Mr. Murphy was visiting in the east last January. Both Roberts and Murphy are certainly not entitled to pay for the same work.

Office rent and fuel allowed the county attorney is a little out of the usual order. When the last county attorney, who, by the way, was a republican, asked for these trimmings he was politely informed that he could occupy a portion of the sheriff's office.

It is stated upon good populist authority that the vigilantes have lashed another O'Neill man for the slaughter. The vigilantes should revise their by-laws and insert the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you." They should not only list it among the duties to be performed by them, but they should live up to it in every respect. We cannot believe that they are foolish enough to hope that they can continue to kill without interruption. There is a natural limit to all earthly affairs.

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