

THE FRONTIER.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY
THE FRONTIER PRINTING COMPANY
KING & CRONIN, EDITORS.

COUNTY DIVISION.

The repeal of the three-fifths law and the filing of petitions praying for the submission of the question of division to a vote of the people, brings and old question up for new discussion.

THE FRONTIER believes that county division, under existing circumstances, would be a bad thing for all concerned, yet we realize that the feeling is for a split which will come in the near future, and in view of this fact would advise the people of O'Neill to get together and secure an equitable distribution of territory. When we say the "people," that is what we mean: we do not mean that a half-dozen men should constitute themselves leaders and fix things up to their satisfaction, expecting all of the voters to walk up to the doctor's office and take their medicine. There is a strong division sentiment in O'Neill and it must be handled gingerly or bad results will follow.

The question of division is purely a selfish one and will be so considered by 99 per cent. of the voters. The men who will look favorably upon it are these:

Those who live in towns that are expected to become county seats; those who expect to hold office in the new counties; those who might expect to be employed to transcribe records; those who might think their farm lands would be worth more money if nearer a county seat; those who now have to travel 30 miles to the county seat and spoil three days in making the trip; those who are tired of this everlasting political broil will favor division because they will figure that the offices will then not be worth fighting over. The spoils will be insignificant; then there are the legions of enemies—mostly victims—of the First National bank, who will vote for division in order to spoil Gallagher's magnificent snap in shaving county paper with county money; there are those who will vote for division to spoil Harrington's pudding; there are hundreds of men who have been libeled by Kautzman, and they realize that a vote for division is a blow at the printing steals now enjoyed by him. They know that to cut the county cuts his income; they regard him as a public calamity and a great many will vote for division for no other reason.

We mention these things only as evidence of how selfish the whole question is, anyway.

THE FRONTIER, whose constituency covers all parts of the county, can take no position to the interest of all. Argument that would hold good in one section could be refuted by facts in another.

The people who reside in what will be Holt county, have less to fear than those who will be in new counties. The new counties will be compelled to pay their proportion of the debt outstanding against Holt at the time of division, besides the great cost of transcribing records, while old Holt will pay nothing but her proportion of the debt and running expenses.

Of course any kind of division will be demoralizing to certain classes of business, such as law, abstracting, county depositories, professional politicians and newspapers. Other business will feel the blow but lightly.

THE FRONTIER is, naturally, for the best interests of O'Neill, and would not like to see her citizens deluded by the belief that they can defeat all kinds of division, or divide upon illogical lines, only to wake up some morning and find the town in four counties.

THE growth and preparation of chicory will cut quite a figure in Holt county's finances the coming season. According to the provisions of the bill the factory will have to pay the farmer \$10.50 per ton in order to get the bounty, thus giving the largest share of the premium direct to the grower who formerly received about \$8.50 per ton for his produce.—Amelia Journal, Pop.

O'NEILL populists and snap-grabbers have already made county division a political issue. They have, with but limited consultation, made a tie-up with Stuart and the south country, and contracted to deliver the vote. These fellows have gone into this move on their own hook, have excluded those not of their political complexion, and the chances are they will not gain any material strength as the fight advances.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW says the republicans will not think seriously of adopting a free silver campaign plank next year. Bob Ingersol likewise rises to remark that he did not make certain statements favorable to free silver attributed to him, while McKinley says he would leave the party forever if it adopted a free silver plank. Thus it will be seen the drift of the people who are going to do business next year is not altogether toward silver monometallism.—Fremont Tribune.

THERE are a few things this paper cannot understand, and one of them is that Ed Gallagher, Mike Harrington, Tom and John Golden et. al., think they can appoint themselves leaders in county division matters and fix up a slate that the people will vote. The gentlemen above mentioned have the right, of course, to tell other sections what they will do as individuals, but when it comes to voting the people in blocks of five they may ascertain that they have stepped upon themselves. We have noticed among other things in our brief career that those things that are good for Gallagher and Harrington are not good for many other people.

THE holding of the irrigation meeting in the court-house Monday establishes the fact that our citizens are fully alive to their interests, and imbued with the belief that "if 'twere well that 'twere done, 'twere well that 'twere done quickly." THE FRONTIER is indeed glad to see this activity. It convinces us that irrigation is a sure thing; if not from one source, then from another. There should be, and we believe will be, no strife over conflicting interests. If the corporation already organized find that they can proceed with the work already mapped out, they will probably do so. If they find that they cannot do this they will be as anxious to turn over their rights for a consideration equivalent to the amount invested by them, as the people will to have them do so. The farmer, who is mostly interested in the success of irrigation projects, will view with satisfaction this increasing activity in irrigation matters, and will rise up and call the man blessed who first gets water upon the land and thereby causes two bushels of grain to grow where one grew before.

MR. BRYAN'S organ, the Omaha World-Herald, at last admits that there are tin plate factories in this country, after denying it point blank through two political campaigns. It now says that in less than four years our tin plate factories have practically crowded out the product of the foreign mills. The admission is made by Mr. Bryan with the avowed intent of proving that the Wilson act did not, after all, destroy the country, but that the tin plate industry has managed to survive. But, of course, had the Wilson bill been passed in 1890 instead of the McKinley bill there would not have been a tin plate mill in the United States. The plants were put in previous to the democratic triumph of 1893 and that catastrophe so completely knocked out the laboring man that he has been compelled to agree to work for anything he can get even if he has to come down to the level of the wages in Wales and Scotland. But it is a wonderful thing to listen to Mr. Bryan sounding the trumpet over the tin plate industry called into being by Major McKinley and giving employment already to 12,000 hands, and think of the brief time that has elapsed since he declared on every stump in the state that the man who claimed that there were any real tin plate mills in the country was a falsifier and a fraud, and that the pretended tin plate factories were "stiffs" put in with republican campaign funds to stamp imported tin with their trade mark and pretend to be doing a legitimate business, for political purposes. Of course he will not now claim that any new mills have been started up under the impulse of the Wilson tariff act.—State Journal.

THE comparison made by us of the administration of the county clerk's office while under the management of Butler and Bethea, causes the pop Sun to twist like the trained contortionist that it is. It squirms backward and forward in a column article in an attempt to make it appear that Butler turned in but \$95 excess, while we credit him with \$295. We have not much space to argue with a man who does not know when he is refuted, but we desire to call the Sun man's attention to the report of the settlement committee, of which Mr. Bethea was chairman, which says that Mr. Butler had an excess of \$295. After this report was adopted the board allowed a bill of \$200 for making road books, and decided that instead of drawing a warrant for the same the clerk be allowed to "retain" that amount of his excess. Then does that in any way effect his \$295 excess? The \$200 claim allowed Butler was never paid by warrant and if the county isn't winner thereby we are certainly off on our arithmetic. There is another interesting point here: While the board allowed Butler but \$200 for making road books, it allowed Bethea \$300. Bethea was chairman of the committee which recommended that Butler be not allowed anything for work that he himself afterwards drew \$300. The Sun argues that Butler turned in an excess of but \$95, the fact still remains that Bethea did not only turn none, but drew on the county for \$396.23 in order to make both ends meet; and further, Bethea paid out more money for assistants than was paid out by Butler. The Sun promises to review some other of our statements. If it cannot succeed better with them, than it did with those under consideration, it better let the job out to Whiskers, who is a much more fluent liar.

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