

# THE FRONTIER.

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

It will be a great relief to the people when the board of supervisors is abolished.

TAYLOR, the South Dakota treasurer who embezzled a half million, is out on \$25,000 bail.

THE populist press of the entire state is in a transport of enthusiastic delight over the verdict rendered in the murder case.

THE supervisors should make an appropriation for the purpose of establishing training quarters. There is no use of talking, they can't be expected to put up a good fight when they are not in form.

ONE newspaper in Nebraska runs each week without credit a column of clippings culled from its exchanges. Although the heading shows that they are not intended as original, the practice is a questionable one. Credit should be given to whom credit is due.

THE will of General Gresham has been probated. It was written by himself and bequeaths his estate, worth \$51,000, to his wife: It is stated that during the time of his service as secretary of state and up to his death he had not drawn the pension allowed him by the government.

THE Sun is a handy piece of machinery for the pops. It often happens that they want to say things unofficially, that is not as pops, and in that case they go to the Sun and the Beacon Light remains silent. Such an arrangement is convenient for the pops and a matter of profit to the Sun. McHugh is just the kind of a man for the position. He has no individuality and never had an idea that was not injected into him.

Those people who seem to think that the tariff question has been settled should note what Senator John M. Thurston said upon that point in the league convention at Cleveland: "The republican party will never let the tariff question rest until it has been settled right and forever. What this country needs is not an opening of the mints to the silver of the world, but an opening of the industries to the muscle of the citizens."

Two weeks ago the Sun attempted to criticize THE FRONTIER for the position it took upon the question of division. Last week it published an editorial in which were embodied ideas advanced by us months ago. It also stated more fully its position upon division. It said, in effect, this: First, vote against any division; second, if you must vote for division, vote for the O'Neill-Stuart-Chambers combine. This is just what we have been anticipating. It shows plainly that the populists are going to throw their strength against the move. They don't want division. There will not be a man occupying a place upon the populist ticket who will support division. Division would ruin their offices, should they be re-elected, and they all expect re-election. A man with half an eye can see the trend of affairs. The Beacon Light, while accusing us of being recreant to O'Neill's interests, has never come out squarely and advocated the division that is said to be wanted by O'Neill. It has quoted the expressions of business men, but it has not advocated the plan or said that it was endorsed by it. That was left for the Sun to do, the pops figuring that anything the Sun would say could not injure in anyway their political chances, but even now it has been called down and is crawling. If division gets any warm newspaper support in O'Neill it will be THE FRONTIER that gives it. Just stick a pin here.

THESE soft July breezes waft to the ears of THE FRONTIER rumors of populist slate-making by such illustrious farmers as Michael Harrington, T. V. Golden and others. The latest is that Mr. Golden has his district judgeship boom inflated sufficiently to cause it to float when it shall be cut loose from its moorings. He is to have the Holt county delegation and enough from the west end to insure his nomination. Michael Harrington is to be a candidate for supreme judge and the Holt county delegation will be at his service. Michael, however, does not expect the nomination: he expects notoriety. The plan is for him to take his little delegation down to the state convention and make a grandstand play. By virtue of his leanness he expects to work his way through the assembled hosts of popdom, spring boldly upon the ramparts, inflate his lungs to their fullest capacity and in a spasmodic burst of grandiloquence nominate for supreme judge that grand old man, Maxwell. Then the applause, which will cause the welkin of the casino to rattle like dry bones, will be music to his ears more soothing than the song sang by the sad waves at the sounding sea shore, and the echo will tell him a tale of congress. In 1896 he will be a candidate to succeed Kem. The plot is a pretty one but its force and effect will be somewhat impaired by its early publication. Those little things all seem much nicer and freer from intrigue when they have the appearance of spontaneous combustion as it were.

We are informed that the county board has allowed Attorney Harrington fees to the amount of about \$1,500, besides considerable cash paid him by the legal committee. How do the people relish this kind of reform? Do they not wonder for what the county attorney draws a salary, with trimmings in the form of office rent and fuel? The allowance of these claims is without question illegal. An Omaha attorney had a written contract with the commissioners of a certain county in this state, for the performance of legal work, but the supreme court said that under the law he was not entitled to it and therefore denied him judgment. It would be the same in this case if anyone took interest enough in the matter to carry it up. This board, however, is determined to reward those of the faith, law or no law. It has been but a few years since the board made a contract with Walt Townsend to erect a bridge across the Niobrara river. When work was commenced it was found that the plans and specifications were inadequate and that the bridge must necessarily be larger. The bridge committee accordingly authorized Mr. Townsend to make the change, agreeing to pay a reasonable sum therefor. The bridge was built in accordance with the instructions of the committee, but when the bill was presented the board refused to pay for the extras and the supreme court sustained them upon the ground that the committee had no right to alter the contract. Mr. Townsend lost all of the money put into the extra work and the county got the benefit by sneaking out through a technicality. But in the case of Harrington, although the same opportunity is presented to avoid payment, they do not choose to avail themselves of it. Townsend is entitled to his money but he's not in the push, that's all.

### THE DECLINE IN PRICES.

There has been a steady and persistent decline in prices since 1895, and the alleged "demonetization" of silver in 1873 neither checked nor hastened that decline. We emerged in 1895 from the greatest war of modern times. War is a great destroyer as well as a great consumer. During the war period the demand had greatly exceeded the supply in all lines. The sources of production had also been cut off, or reduced, and prices had gone skyward. Decline was inevitable and immediately set in. Any one in the mercantile business during the period from 1865 to 1878 will remember distinctly the difficulty of selling at a profit any stock that lay a few months on the shelves.

The tremendous march of modern progress began about this time to become a great factor in the reduction of prices. During the period since 1870 the forces of civilization have developed more power and progress than in five hundred years, or even a thousand years, before that time. The great alleged "crime" of "demonetization" in 1873 did not create a ripple in the resistless sweep of modern ideas, invention, enterprise and development. Railroads have belted the earth, reaching thousands of miles into wonderfully rich and formerly unexplored regions, enlarging and cheapening beyond computation the production of every cultivated thing that grows from the ground, and equalizing (with cheap transportation, which has grown cheaper every year) all supplies in all parts of the world. Ocean tonnage has also been largely increased and carrying rates largely reduced. Steam has supplanted the sail; the six months' voyage of thirty-five years ago is now measured by days and weeks. Where capital was formerly tied up for weeks, in an ocean shipment, it is now released within a few days. Where sales and purchases were made through months correspondence by letter, the telegraph and cable now do the work in a few hours. The cost of doing a given volume of business is reduced by 50 per cent. All of these things have contributed to the steady and swift reduction of prices.

It should be needless to direct attention to the marvelous improvement and development in mechanical appliances within twenty-five years—a development probably exceeding that of all time from the days of Adam. The cheapening of all manufactured products has been in direct ratio to the increase and perfection of these appliances. And, they have also greatly reduced the cost of growing and harvesting wheat, corn and other agricultural products. The unlimited coinage of silver could no more have stayed the effect of these forces than a bunch of straw would turn Niagara. They have simply developed new and strange conditions, whether for the good of mankind or the reverse remains yet an unsolved problem. But it would seem that in the end great good must come from the cheapening of the cost of all the necessities, comforts and luxuries of living. Labor problem, and many vexing questions and issues not now quite clear, must be adjusted. But silver has no place whatever in these adjustments.

We have had a transformation since the "demonetization" of silver. We are living in a new age. And the free silver advocates have as yet been unable to comprehend or accept the conditions. They have eyes but do not see. They cling to the dead past, and live on a pleasing but foolish memory. Some of them garrulous and miserably. Others are spiteful and venomous, because they foolishly believe that the great marching procession has "conspired" against them and against the idol they have so long cherished with a singleness of heart and pathetic devotion. They are mischievous, because some of them have filled high places. Many people are impressed with the tenacity of their devotion; others are attracted by the noise they make. But they are as unsafe guides as an old man in his dotage with a host of imaginary wrongs.—Dollars or What.

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