

THE FRONTIER.

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

It is really astounding to see so many men "in the lead" for the republican nomination for governor.

If you would have law an order, step to one side, keep your beak buttoned and let the law administer the order.

The great hue and cry being raised by the populist press and the vigilantes would indicate that they are striving to work up public sentiment strong enough to justify them in another lynching.

The Jew is again advancing the theory that Scott was murdered by his friends. There seems to be something on that fellow's tumor—he has no brain, a tumor is growing in his skull instead.

Most populist editors imagine that in order to show good faith in the cause they must contribute to every lie that is started concerning a "loathsome contemporary" of old party politics. The Plainview News man is not above such despicable littleness.

As BETWEEN a Holt county vigilante and a Holt county cattle rustler THE FRONTIER has not much choice. Many of the biggest rogues in the county have joined the vigs for their own safety. In this sense the organization is a "protective association."

LAST Sunday was ground-hog day, as we will be told this week by six hundred exchanges. We only pause to observe that if Brer Ground-hog was not blind, and was fat enough to make a shadow, he could have seen himself silhouetted against the black sandy loam of Holt county.

MATT DAUGHERTY denies that he is a candidate for congress in this district. He says his business interests will not permit him to make another campaign. Matt has many warm personal friends in this section of the district who made great efforts for him two years ago and lament that he was defeated, but at the same time will consider his present determination an evidence of wisdom.

A MAN can be against the vigilantes and against cattle rustlers at one and the same time. The large majority of our best citizens are members of no "protective association," in fact the best citizens are always opposed to anything of the kind. What good have the vigs done Holt county, that the Sun would have the business men organize to protect them? Aside from murdering a few men and giving the county the worst name imaginable, we ask what?

We notice in a copy of the Alton Democrat, kindly sent us by its publisher, Will Wells, that Wetlaufer was arrested on the strength of a telegram by County Judge McOutchan, sent in response to one received by him from the authorities there. The judge stated that the prisoner was not authorized to solicit aid. In view of the fact that he carried letters of recommendation from our county clerk, district clerk, sheriff and several of his neighbors, it would appear that an injustice has been done the man. Right is right.

The belligerent editor of THE FRONTIER brings home with him an enthusiastic report of the state press meeting. He says the people of the capital city know how to entertain, and entertain as they know how. The compiler of this department, although a couple of hundred miles away, observed with a great degree of pleasure that a considerable portion of the time was devoted by the boys to discussion of mutual interests, and the interests will be none the worse for the discussion. The state press of Nebraska already occupies a high plane, but it might breathe lighter atmosphere without permanent injury to its lungs.

A PAPER up in Holt county in pointing out a few journalist features to a neighbor, editorially remarks that its contempt for Roosevelt's politics is so utterly utter that the editor never reads the Bee. On another page of the same issue is found a two-stick extract from said Bee.—Leigh World.

Don't create a false impression, Pete. The remarks concerning the Bee appeared on the editorial page; the extract from the Bee appeared on the local page. In some well appointed offices, you know, there is a man who writes editorials, and another who writes locals. It is possible that the editorial writer does not read the Bee, while perhaps the local man does. Of course, under our statute it is no crime to read the pride of two continents, but it is written that the man who takes the law for his only guide is neither an honest man nor a good citizen.

The O'Neill Sun in its last issue publishes an editorial commending very highly the "Protective Association"—which is nothing less than the vigilantes' organization—and in another column advises the business men of O'Neill and Holt county to hold a mass meeting to denounce the press correspondents who publish the news in regard to the movements of the vigilantes, and to give such correspondents notice to "leave the country." In other words, the Sun wants the business men to organize for the protection of the vigilantes. The

cause of this great outburst of wrath in the Sun office was a special from O'Neill to the World-Herald, Omaha, and the Sioux City Tribune, purporting to give particulars concerning the hold up of young Groves, which occurred last December. THE FRONTIER knows nothing of the author of this special, but it does know that he came as near telling the truth in regard to the matter as the Sun did.

As near as THE FRONTIER can learn, Groves was held up by the vigs and taken blindfolded to one of their meetings, where all kinds of questions were propounded to him and various methods adopted to frighten him into a confession of anything he might know that would interest them. Now if this is a fact, and we have every reason to believe it is, what, in the name of civilization, is the sense in calling a mass meeting to inflict summary punishment upon some newsgatherer for telling the truth? Better, by far, call a mass meeting for the suppression of these men who hid behind the cloak of a "stockmen's association" to perpetrate these crimes against the law.

The Sun is of the opinion that these reports are "injuring the county." This is not true. The reports do not injure the county, but the fact that these things do actually occur here is what hurts. If you would eradicate the evil you must strike at the root and not merely trim off a few unsightly branches.

There is no excuse for a vigilante organization in Holt county. Every township has justices of the peace and constables who may issue and serve warrants, and the sheriff, who would spread the idea that farmers along the Niobrara must travel 40 miles to O'Neill in order to procure a warrant for the arrest of a cattle thief, probably has some idea for so doing. Holt county is not overrun with cattle thieves to such an extent that the proper authorities cannot handle them. It is not nearly so bad here as it has been in Knox county, and other of our border counties, for years.

Fact is, this "protective association" is made up for the most part of farmers who do not farm and stockmen without stock, who put in their time playing private detective and laying plans to avenge personal grievances they may have against their neighbors.

THE FRONTIER wants to see every thief get just punishment—not excepting the man who charges the county for 1000 letter heads when he only prints 600—but it believes the result can be obtained without the interference of any vigilantes.

The Sun might as well realize that as long as the vigilantes continue their unlawful work, just so long will the newspapers continue to publish accounts of it. There is nothing to be gained by concealing a condition that exists.

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