

THE FRONTIER.

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D. H. CRONIN, EDITOR.

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It is nearly time for city politics to become interesting subject matter for conversation.

There is more railroad building in sight for 1897 than there has been for the past four years.

One month from today will see the passing of the democratic party from power in American politics.

The citizens of Butte, Boyd county, are working to have the Short Line build a stub to that place.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND is now putting in most of his time making appointments. He is trying to reward the faithful.

JUDGE McHUGH got it where the chicken got the ax. His political topline was not strong enough to stand the pull.

CHICAGO has refused the aid tendered by Nebraska for the starving poor of that city. Pride covereth many a hungry stomach.

The tow mills at Fremont are running full blast. It takes lots of rope for the populist legislature, but it will eventually hang itself.

INTEREST in irrigation should not be allowed to lag on account of the indications for a wet season. Let us have the ditch by all means.

OMAHA is a great news center, and if no genuine sensations appear the cowshed under the viaduct, by courtesy called a depot, furnishes a fruitful theme.

The senatorial situation in South Dakota will probably retire Senator Kyle and wrangle until the end of the legislative session without naming his successor.

The United States supreme court has assigned the first Monday in April for a hearing of the maximum rate cases coming over from the Nebraska supreme court.

St. Louis has a scandal on its hands of the Seeley dinner type. A nullo girl attired in a pair of dancing slippers amused the wealthy bon ton at a swell dinner.

A new idea to supercede the condensed milk business is to freeze the milk into bricks. It would be a novelty to see carloads of milk bricks being shipped around the country.

While many states are passing laws to prohibit foot ball, Nevada comes serenely to the front with a law licensing prize fighting. Pugilistic wind will now be at a discount.

Ir Corbett and Fitzsimmons would move to Nevada they might have an opportunity to be elected to the United States senate. The lawmakers there are lovers of the fistio art.

The house committee on constitutional amendments has recommended the passage of a bill introduced by Grimes of Holt, proposing an amendment giving women the right to vote.

JAMES WILSON, of Iowa, has accepted the position of Secretary of Agriculture, tendered by the president elect. The west is receiving merited recognition from President-elect McKinley.

A train load of sheep were unloaded at Atkinson last week for feeding purposes. With the wool industry protected Holt county would have numerous train loads of sheep which would be raised here every year instead of receiving an occasional consignment for feeding.

W. H. MUNGER, of Fremont, has been named to be United States District Judge for the district of Nebraska. Judge McHugh's name was withdrawn on account of the opposition in the senate.

If the bill against profanity, which has been introduced in the Kansas legislature, should become a law, some of the members will have to discover a new way to relieve their pent-up feelings.

A BILL to pay Boyd county \$4,832 to defray the expenses incurred by that county in the trial of the men accused of the murder of Barrett Scott, was recommended for passage in the house last Friday.

As a result of an investigation relative to the percentage of farmers who are using corn for fuel the secretaries of the state board of transportation have asked railroad managers to reduce the through rate on corn.

The pops will hold a national conference at Kansas City, February 23, to find out where they are at. As a party organization the pops do not seem to realize that they were swallowed by the Bryan democracy last fall.

ANOTHER great(?) populist statesman has fallen by the wayside, clean outside of the breastworks. Senator Peffer was defeated for re-election in Kansas. Even his whiskers, which have made him famous, failed to save him from defeat.

PRESIDENT JORDAN, of Stanford university, has stirred up the orthodox christians by a bold denunciation of religious revivals, which he declares are a species of intoxication that are no more worthy of respect than common drunkenness.

ALTHOUGH the legislatures of Alabama and Georgia have voted down bills making gold contracts illegal in those states, the "counted in" democratic governor of Tennessee, is trying to get an anti-gold contract bill through the legislature.

SURVEYOR BERRY has commenced work on the survey for the big ditch in the Golden Irrigation District. Mr. Berry is an engineer of experience in this line of business and his report will be anxiously waited for by the people of the district.

In France the authorities are studying schemes to increase the population, and a plan has been proposed to distribute political favors according to the size of the family. This is what might properly be termed protection to an infant industry.

It must have been great satisfaction to the lone republican in the Idaho legislature, when he cast his vote for Heidfeldt, thereby electing him United States senator. He partly paid Dubois for his party treachery, and should receive a gold medal.

JOHN RITCHART, late editor of the South Omaha Daily Sun, has purchased the Grand Island Democrat, taking possession last week. John is an able writer, and if the democrats of Hall county want an able advocate of their principles they will give him their united support, and they can rest assured that they will have a paper of which they can well feel proud. John, we wish you success.

Our representative in the legislature voted to oust the four republican members from Douglas county because they subscribed to the campaign fund. It would now be in order for these able reformers(?) to come home and commence impeachment proceedings against our populist county officials, who could never have been elected had it not been for the liberal use of the root of all evil—money. Will they do it? Nit.

The Commercial Club of Omaha gave a banquet Tuesday evening, the novelty of which was that the menu was made up entirely of Nebraska products. Among the toasts was "Nebraska Chicory," which was presented by G. B. Oldfield, of the American Chicory company. He gave a complete history of the chicory business in this state and the founding of the factory in O'Neill. Among other things he stated that

farmers in California find it profitable to raise chicory for \$5 a ton, while in Nebraska it has reached a stage so successful that our farmers receive \$7.50 per ton. The speaker said that if the tariff was increased on raw chicory it would increase the Nebraska product four or five times.

SENATOR DUBOIS, of Idaho, has been defeated for re-election. When he walked out of the republican national convention upon the adoption of the platform and set himself up as one of the country's patriots, the supposition was that he would be re-elected to the senate for a six year term, and, at this distance, it looks as if the senator thought more of an election than he did of his political faith. By leaving his party he has been forced into private life, and is now a man without a party.

SENATOR THURSTON has submitted a proposed amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill appropriating \$7,000 to enable the secretary of agriculture to continue investigations into the progress made in the production of domestic sugar, the area of lands adapted thereto by irrigation or otherwise, and all other matters concerning the same. He presented a statement showing the national benefits to be derived from the success of this important agricultural product and stating that large tracts of semi-arid land can be made available for the production of raw material.

AT THE meeting of the Sugar Beet association at Hastings, this week, much interest was shown in the subject, and the matter of irrigation was given great consideration as being a factor which will develop that industry, as well as chicory raising, and add millions to the wealth of Nebraska. The matter of irrigation is not a little local affair as some would believe, but the consummation of the irrigation projects now in view are of state and national interest and will place Nebraska at one bound at the head of the procession of states whose productive resources of wealth are boundless.

When the rate of taxation is over six per cent of our reported valuation something must be radically wrong with our assessment laws. Though as a matter of fact the fault lies not with the laws but with the assessors who fix values. The following seems to be their method: Just previous to the work of assessing, the assessors of the county meet and decide among themselves what part of real valuation they will make the assessed valuation. The latest rule that reaches our notice is one-sixth. Thus when the work is completed and reports are all in the reported valuation of our state is about one-sixth of its real value. These schemes work no favors with the property owners who pay the taxes, but in the eyes of those who might wish to push the enterprises in the west but are not familiar with the conditions, it works very much to our disadvantage. It would seem well and good for Nebraska's law makers to pass a law forbidding the levying of more than a rate of one

per cent on taxable property. This would have much nearer the desired effect. Assessors would be compelled to search after values and when the reports were filed the record of the value of our state would be very good and the rate of taxation would appear very low. In many counties a good house, lot, house furniture, team and carriage that could not be purchased for one thousand dollars, are valued on the assessors' books at about \$150. The rate of tax on these is nearly six per cent, when if the property were assessed at its real value the rate of taxation would be only about one per cent.—Blair Pilot.

CHICAGO'S BIG CANAL.

The so-called drainage canal at Chicago, says an exchange, is an enterprise vastly larger than the idea conveyed by its name. It will cost \$27,000,000. It is twenty-eight miles long. The average depth is thirty to thirty-six feet; the depth of water from twenty-two to thirty-six feet. The cross sections are greater than the Suez canal, the great Manchester ship canal or the North Sea Canal, which was deemed worthy of being opened with all the pomp at the command of the German emperor. Five times as much dirt has been excavated as was taken from the big Croton aqueduct at New York. The figures for totals of excavations in notable instances are as follows: Chicago, 40,000,000; Cornith, 11,000,000; North Sea, 48,000,000; Suez canal 98,000,000; Panama canal, 200,000,000; Niagara canal, 70,000,000.

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