

THE FRONTIER.

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THE FRONTIER PRINTING COMPANY
D. H. CRONIN, EDITOR.



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Now for the republican tariff bill, and then a long era of general prosperity.

The hearing of the case against ex-Treasurer Bartley was continued until April 19.

The Sioux City Journal is defendant in a \$10,000 libel suit. This ought to make the Tribune envious.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY has made a good start, and everybody knows how advantageous that is in everything.

A GREAT deal of the campaign enthusiasm was revived at the inauguration of McKinley and Hobart.

AMERICAN citizens and the American flag are going to be respected in every quarter of the world during this administration. Mark the prediction.

PROTECTION to Americans at home and abroad is the keystone of the republican arch congress will provide for first, and President McKinley will do the rest.

Yes, yes, great party, great administration, and we are all going to have great times as soon as its imprint is felt upon the statute books of the country.

JERRY SIMPSON knows the value of advertising. Having worked out the sockless scheme, he has now sprung a silk hat and tailor made suit on the newspapers.

The Sun has just discovered that a board of populist supervisors are an expensive luxury. Just what THE FRONTIER has been telling the people the past five years.

A FRENCH duke has arrived in this country as the advance agent of a useful invention. Even European nobility is sometimes useful—if they are so poor they have to be.

The report that Gen. Weyler has resigned may or may not be true, but, unless he intends to turn over a new leaf in his treatment of Americans in Cuba, he would better resign.

JOHN SHERMAN'S platform—protection to American citizens anywhere and everywhere—is good enough for anybody, and it is going to be lived up to by this administration.

ALL those who are interested in the question of irrigation should attend the meeting at the courthouse next Tuesday. No matter whether you are opposed to it or in favor of it, attend, and let the matter be thoroughly discussed.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER has promised to add \$10,000,000 to his already large donations to the University of Chicago, of which he is the founder. Standard oil money has certainly proved an excellent lubricant for this institution.

The Sun was willing to pay a corporation about \$5,000,000 to build the big irrigation ditch, and then pay them about \$750,000 a year for the use of the water. But now it is opposed to the residents of the district building the ditch and owning it. If it was a good thing for a man to pay a water right of \$10 an acre, and \$1.25 an acre for the use of the water, why is it not a good thing to pay a tax of about 20 cents an acre under the district system?

THE DITCH.

There seems to be a great deal of excitement and agitation and fuss over the irrigation question, and people here and there are working themselves into a frenzy over imaginary "octopuses," "swindler's ditches," "burdens of taxation" and so forth and so forth. This is all unwarranted. There is no one hurt and we don't believe that anyone is going to be hurt.

The people got so much of the drouth in 1893 and 1894 that they were clamoring for a system of irrigation. Their clamor was born of necessity. All agreed that it was a question of irrigate or emigrate. It was believed that a successful system of irrigation could be had and a number of persons, who probably had more dollars than sense, went down into their pockets and contributed money to ascertain what could be done in that direction. Investigation showed that we had what appeared to be one of the best natural layouts for a successful irrigation system that could be found in the United States. So encouraging did the thing appear that efforts were made to interest outside capital, but the outside capitalists were evidently "on to us." They were shy. Finally, however, an agreement was made with some eastern parties that if a sufficient number of water rights were contracted for to form a safe basis for investment, money would be forthcoming to carry on the enterprise. A great many water rights were taken, but not enough. Public meetings were being held in the meantime at which the question was being discussed, and at which the obstructionists were in attendance. The cost was roughly estimated at a million dollars. Those opposed to irrigation pooch-pooched the idea. According to them a few hundred thousand dollars would build the ditch. Politics got mixed up with the idea and it died.

About the same time the legislature framed an irrigation law—the very thing the people wanted. They could form a district, build their own ditch, elect good honest men to look after it instead of the rascals that were connected with the company, and best of all they could make the non-residents pay the biggest share of the cost. Just what the doctor ordered. The district was formed and everything went smoothly on, and it begins to look as if the district could build the ditch. But now mark the change. The fellows that don't want irrigation come on the scene again, the obstructionists, the ones who wanted the people to build the ditch because they thought the people couldn't build it, the ones who laughed at the idea of the ditch costing more than a few hundred thousand dollars, when the company was trying to build it. They have changed their minds and now think that the ditch instead of costing a few hundred thousand dollars will cost as many million dollars. Consistent, are they not? Now then, what's their purpose? Are they honest? How can they or anyone else say what the cost of building the ditch will be? The survey is being made for the purpose of finding this out. We most positively and emphatically say that no one can tell what the cost will be at this time. Those who were away down low in their figures on the one proposition, and equally as high on their estimate of the cost under the present plan, can hardly be depended on for reliable information.

It seems to us a good time to "keep one's shirt on" and summon a little common sense to our assistance. But a roar is going up against the survey, which is costing thousands of dollars. Well, we'll just wager dollars to buttons that of the taxes already paid in under the levy made for the purpose of making the survey, not one-tenth of it has been paid by people living in the district. We heard a man who has a couple of town lots kicking on this survey a few days ago, and the tax he had to pay on account of it, and just to satisfy our curiosity we went and looked up the taxes on his lots. He hasn't paid any taxes in five years, and, ten to one, he

doesn't intend to pay any more.

Now in conclusion, let us say that we don't want to see this ditch built unless the cost of building it will be reasonable and such that we can profit by it. We do want to see the survey completed so that we will know once and for all what is best to do about building a ditch. When we get the engineer's report we may be surprised at what it will disclose. It may show that the cost will be very light. We are sure of one thing now, and that is that the man who says the ditch will be 250 miles long is either misrepresenting or uninformed, because the actual distance from the reservoir site to the east line of Holt county is only 108 miles, and from the Snake river to the reservoir site is only 28 miles. And we know that those who state that Campbell is being paid \$25 a day while he is in Denver are either willfully untruthful or do not know what they are talking about, because Campbell is paid only for the actual time he is engaged, and then in warrants that we do not believe he can sell for ten cents on the dollar. And we also know that the newspaper that has been asked to bid on the printing of ballots for the April election, as required by law, as was one of the Ainsworth, Neb., papers, and then comes out in an article with a declaration that the ballots are for a bond election, and that the bonds are to be voted before the survey is completed, whether the ditch is to cost a large or a small sum, is not honest or ridiculously ignorant.

MR. ECKLES AND THE CONFERENCE.

A Washington rumor has it that Comptroller Eckles is to represent this country under the international monetary act providing for one or more special commissioners for the preliminary negotiations, and five or more commissioners for the conference.

There is no reason to doubt but what Mr. Eckles would act in good faith in this matter. As for the commission to participate in the conference itself, while the gold monometalists, to which class Eckles belongs, should be represented, a clear majority of the commission should consist of genuine bimetalists, men in thorough sympathy with the international monetary plank of the republican platform. That plank was not a decoy duck, but a truthful statement of what the republican party will try in good faith to accomplish.

The act as finally passed gives the president almost carte blanche to expend \$100,000 in promoting the end in view. That amounted to a vote of confidence in Mr. McKinley, confidence that he will do all he can to bring about such a conference and to make it a success.

This is the fourth time our country has tried to restore general bimetalism by passing an international monetary conference act, or, which is the same thing, providing in some more general bill for participation in such a conference. The first dates back to February 28, 1878, just 19 years previous to the last act. That first instance was a supplementary feature of the Bland-Allison act. Three years later the sundry civil act contained an appropriation for the purpose, as did the one of the year following. From 1882 to 1895 there was a lull. A general appropriation of \$100,000 was made in 1895, but President Cleveland ignored it altogether. He was opposed to anything and everything which might promote the restoration of silver, no matter what the ratio.—Inter Ocean.

The bill changing the definition of a legal newspaper was killed in the house Tuesday. 'Tis well.

WELL, it is a relief to know that Mr. Cleveland is no longer in a position to teach the country expensive object lessons.

A strong cabinet, mentally, physically and politically, is that which President McKinley has chosen to advise him. The men who compose it will not be merely head clerks, as the members of Mr. Cleveland's cabinet were, but will be actual advisers of the president.

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