

THE FRONTIER.

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D. H. CRONIN, EDITOR.



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There isn't the slightest doubt that the senate will ratify the arbitration treaty, after slightly amending it.

JERRY SIMPSON made his re-entry into congress by declaring himself in favor of free tariff and direct taxation.

LITTLE DAVIS HILL seems to have crawled into a hole and pulled the hole in after him, since he dropped out of the senate.

SCOTT JACKSON and Alonzo Walling were hanged at Newport, Ky., last Saturday for the murder of Pearl Bryan in 1896.

Wonder if any of the Nevada tourists, except the managers of the big skin-game, think they got the worth of their money.

Perhaps Senator Daniels does not value the endorsement given him by the Virginia populists as highly as they thought he would.

It is just as well for Mr. Bayard to get all the eulogies he can from the English, as he will get none on this side of the Atlantic.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY wasted no words in telling congress exactly what it was called in extra session to do, and the people have a right to expect that congress will waste no time in doing it.

When the democrats sneer at the Dingley tariff bill as "only another McKinley bill," they pay the new bill a decided compliment. It was another McKinley bill that the people ordered last November.

How would it do to make the democrats in office, who are claiming protection under Mr. Cleveland's extensions of the civil service rules, pass the same examination required of outside applicants for the same positions?

S. J. Young has disposed of the Hartington Herald. S. J. has published one of the neatest country papers in the state, and THE FRONTIER is sorry to see him leave the ranks of Northwestern Nebraska journalists, but wish him success wherever he may cast his lot.

Mr. Cleveland hadn't shipped wine to his Princeton house, five men then in the employ of the Pennsylvania R. R. would not be hunting jobs. The men drank the wine, got drunk, and have been discharged. Another temperance object lesson, and from an unexpected quarter.

Why did the populist legislature refuse to investigate the specific charges made by Hedlund against the recount commission? Can it be possible that this great party of reform, whose members have been continually harping about republicans palatial and condoning the offenses of officers of their party, desire to shield this board in its nefarious work? It looks that way.

There is not the slightest excuse for a long debate in the senate on the new tariff bill. The country thoroughly understands the underlying principles of the measure—protection to American industries and revenue to meet the deficit. Any attempt on the part of the democrats and assistant democrats in the senate to lengthen the debate in that body will be made solely to delay the putting in effect of the new measure.

AT LINCOLN.

LINCOLN, NEB., March 22—Special Correspondence: Blackstone, if I can quote from memory correctly, defines law as being "a rule of action prescribed by the chief power of the state, commanding what is right and prohibiting what is wrong." In Nebraska, the chief power of the state is the will of the people expressed by the ballot. The majority rules. They make the rule of actions which governs, not only the citizen but the public official. We have three departments in our state government; the legislative, the executive, and the judiciary.

The people by their constitution, have prescribed the limits of power which each of these departments may exercise. Neither may trespass upon the other. No two of them can rule the state without the other.

If the legislature enacts a measure that measure is law so long as it goes unchallenged. But if any citizen challenges the measure, then it stops, and its force is held in abeyance until the judiciary decides that it is within the constitution. If it were not for this check upon the legislative power, it might, if in accord with the executive, go on enacting laws without limit until the constitution, the essence of the people's will, would be set aside. Such a condition would be revolution. The humblest citizen of the state, the poorest man, the weakest woman, or the smallest child, may stand before a legislative enactment and deny its force until the court has pronounced it law.

In a community like ours, the progress of the people toward higher civilization is measured by their tendency to proceed with their government along the prescribed lines as laid down by the constitution. If a large proportion of the people at any particular time, for any particular partisan purpose, manifests a disposition to over-ride their own constitution by changing it in an irregular way to suit some particular present political situation, then it is fair to say that the community is in a disorderly, lawless, and revolutionary mood.

Each state in the union has a character, an individuality, which is the basis of its reputation. Ohio has a good reputation, because its people are orderly and law-abiding. Mississippi has a bad reputation, because the people there break their own laws by common consent.

The reputation of a state affects also the reputation of each individual in the state. An honest farmer or business man in Ohio has a better standing than the same kind of a man has in Mississippi.

If it were wired to Nebraska today that a hundred thousand families of Ohio people were ready to come to this state and be citizens, that a like number of families from Mississippi were also ready to come, and that it was left to Nebraska to choose which it would accept, what would be the choice? The people, who have homes and farms and business interests to protect and who want to live peaceably under the law, would undoubtedly choose the Ohio families. But if the choice was left to the present governor, the present legislature, the present fusion caucus and the omnipresent private secretary, the Mississippi people would be invited, because they would be natural allies in the lawless and revolutionary proceedings now going on.

The Ohio people if they were here would say, "Submit the recount act to the court and see if it is constitutional before you put it into force." The Mississippi people would say, "Dam the court! Whenever we get hold of a rope let's pull on it, court or no court."

Now, Nebraska has come to the parting of the ways. We will proceed either by the Ohio or the Mississippi method. There is a collision between law and lawlessness. The engines are rushing together with tremendous force. If the engine of law is borne down and crushed by the shock, then the train of state government is on a down grade toward Mississippi conditions. The people here at Lincoln begin to see the issue now as they did not at first. The sound of the clash is in every ear. Never before did the question

come so squarely before the people, "Is there a constitution, is there a court, is there law, and is there restraint upon the governor and the legislature as well as upon the people?" Let us retrace the steps which have brought us to this dangerous line of anarchy, and which today attracts the attention of every reading man in the United States.

First the people, years ago, by their votes, adopted a constitution which is the basis of all statutory law, and governs the governor, the courts, and the legislature as well as the common people. In this constitution is provided that it cannot be changed except the people, by their votes, signify their consent.

Twelve amendments to this constitution were submitted to the people. The people voted on these amendments, counted and returned their votes and declared by these returns that they did not want the amendments. Then the governor and legislature, being in control, said: "It would be a great advantage to us to have this one particular amendment adopted. We will therefore set aside these returns which the people have made, will create a new counting board of our own, and will count these ballots and make a return of our own." Then they gagged the mouth of every protestor in their caucus. They put the caucus collar about the neck of every honest man, locked it, and the governor held the key.

All this time the people looked on indifferently. They had been betrayed by republican officials, and the tendency of the people, when they have been betrayed by one set of politicians, is to give their confidence to some other set of politicians without being very particular as to just what becomes of it.

The people said, "Yes, this fusion legislature is ring ruled and reckless, just as republican legislatures were, but they can't be much worse." This is the kind of philosophy with which the average citizen solaces himself until the downward trend is so precipitous that he becomes alarmed.

Thousands of people who condoned the acts of this legislature a few weeks ago are now wrought up to the highest tension, and are watching every new move with the keenest interest.

All the time they were preparing to defile the ballot and seize the supreme court by force, they beat the tom tom of honest pretensions in the ears of the public. They played the people with the confidence game of "Canada Bill." Maret whispered the secret wishes of the governor to the ring bosses, but to the public he declared that the governor had only the most honorable intentions.

The governor himself, on every possible occasion, took pains to say over and over again that he was honorable in his intentions. Edmundson, the oil inspector, and the oil ejector, spewed out this oil of honest pretensions over the troubled waters from morning till night, week in and week out. No legal restraint was attempted against this conspiracy until every pacific means was exhausted. They refused a nonpartisan board. They refused an open count. Every one of the ballots had been counted openly before the public at the time of the election. Now they were to be counted in secret. The court was appealed to. A restraining order was issued, commanding the counters to desist and hold the ballots until the constitutionality of the act was decided.

Then the spirit of Mississippi rose up in Nebraska and said: "We will count these ballots and count them our way, court or no court, constitution or no constitution—damn the constitution." Then a committee of the house broke into the room where the ballots were and seized them by force. They are not our ballots now. They are bastard ballots, disowned, discredited, and tainted with fraud. Hedlund's exposure has startled the whole state. He says thousands of ballots were miscounted. He boldly charges fraud and asks the governor to investigate. The governor promptly dismisses Hedlund, who exposed the fraud, but retains the others who committed the fraud. Republicans

in the house moved for investigation but the populists voted it down. This is the way reform goes on at the state capital. You who think I have been too severe on the populists, and have put too much stress on this recount matter, come and see for yourselves.

J. W. JOHNSON.

The new tariff bill is all right. Now let congress get it through as early as possible. Then the business of the country will have a chance to improve.

The charges made by Ole Hedlund, one of the members of the canvassing board appointed by Governor Holcomb, are serious and should be thoroughly investigated. A resolution was introduced in the house of representatives to investigate the charges but was voted down by the populist majority. It looks as if there was a nigger in the wood pile somewhere.

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