

THE FRONTIER.

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D. H. CRONIN, EDITOR.



The semi-annual scrap between the Bee and World-Herald is now on.

Congress has adjourned for the holidays. It will meet again January 5.

The loafer doesn't have to hunt for signs of "bad luck," he finds them in everything.

If Mr. Bryan's popularity in Mexico should induce him to remain in that country, what would his worshippers in this country do for an idol?

There's a screw loose somewhere in the democratic machine. That is the only way we can account for the absence of the usual abuse of Speaker Reed when congress is in session.

The house judiciary committee has agreed upon a bankruptcy bill, but it will not be an easy task to get it through congress, notwithstanding the general demand for such legislation.

The holiday edition of the Fremont Tribune, issued last Saturday, was a gem of typographical art, and judging from the numerous ads therein displayed, was a money maker for the Hammond boys.

There is more or less talk from those who don't know about additional revenue legislation by this congress. There will be no such legislation. It is not needed. The Dingley tariff law will, before the close of the next fiscal year, be producing a surplus.

Several of Nebraska's leading populists now realize that the democrats own their party body and soul. Well, that is nothing. It is only what we have maintained the past two years, but the pops could not see it that way. But now that the democrats have control of all the offices worth having, they are asking themselves where they are at, when, for all the satisfaction they will get, they might as well ask what the wild winds are saying?

As usual the passage of the pension appropriation bill by the house has been made the basis for a lot of wild assertions about men drawing pensions who are not entitled to them. There is only one answer to such talk. If you know a single man who draws a pension without being entitled to it, you are not a good citizen if you fail to report the fraud to the proper authorities; if you make the charge without knowledge you are a common slanderer, and should be treated as such.

A few weeks ago A. E. Sheldon, who was one of the popocratic leaders in the legislature last winter, and is now an employee in the office of the secretary of state, had a letter in one of the populist organs at Lincoln urging that the three-ringed fusion deal be thrown up and that all come together into one party, or a new party to be organized. The writer seems to feel that fusion was unsatisfactory and he seemed to feel that in case it was again attempted it might fail to connect. There is no doubt that Sheldon represents the feelings of others than himself. There are those who think that he represents the element at the state house and that the letter was put out as a feeler. It is also evident that there is strong opposition to the plan, for there are many populists who honestly and consciously believe in the principles promulgated by the populist party and have taken no stock in the fusion idea, and will take even less the idea of abandoning their party and framing another. Judging from items in the papers the letter has stirred up quite a hornet's nest in populist circles, and some are denouncing the letter. It looks as if there might be quite a scramble to see whether this idea of union in one party will prevail, whether the fusion scheme will be again attempted, or whether

the populists will pursue their own way alone and allow the rest to go as they please. It is very likely that during the next few months there will be considerable fun for those outside to watch the maneuvers of the various factions in what will likely develop into a new three-ringed circus.—Seward Reporter.

A CALIFORNIAN visiting in New York writes to his friends that the feeling is strong there against Bryan in all of the numerous branches of the democratic party. Tammany holds him to be a small man and the anti-Tammany people consider him a political coward. A follower of Henry George spoke in this strain to the man from the west: "Since Mr. Bryan doesn't know the sound of his own bell when he hears it, he can't ring one that I'll follow with a warm heart any more. Tammany ignored Bryan and the Chicago platform, and yet Bryan was afraid to indorse the George movement, which upheld the banner. Bryan's silence reveals two things: That he's too much of a politician and too narrow a man to head the movement we call Bryanism. Ordinary political prudence and maneuvering are out of place in the conduct of a man who leads a sentiment and around whom it organizes. He should be instant in his response to that sentiment whenever it appears, whether it has many or few voters behind it in any particular place. If he isn't capable of that large indifference to immediate consequences, why, he simply isn't big enough for his job. A bolder and bigger man is needed to represent Bryanism than Bryan is proving himself to be." The discovery that Bryan is a politician, first, last and all the time will naturally drive away and disgust the George men very early in the proceedings. Henry George was for what he considered the right cause under all circumstances. The men who trained with him on that plane will have no patience with the dodging and turning of professional politicians.—Lincoln Journal.

THEY PAY NO FARE.

LINCOLN, NEB., Dec. 18, 1897.—Special Correspondence: From the 15th to the 31st of December is the time when the anti-railroad reform official harvests his annual passes. Each mail that comes into Lincoln these days brings these annuals for 1898. Some of them come voluntarily and some of them are extorted through threats and promises. What a national sensation it would be if there was a way to bring this pass business into court and compel the railroads to disclose the pass record between them and these reform officials during the year which is just closing.

It would be a national sensation of such tremendous force as to destroy this populist party in its present form and under its present name forever, but it would also destroy the free pass system in this state. It would make the thing so conspicuous and so odious that no man who has any regard for himself would ever again dare to play the two-faced hypocrite for free rides. In such a case the death of the populist party would bring more reform to the state than its life has brought.

This pass business is sucking the moral vitality out of the reform movement. The leaders know this, but the party's loss is their gain and they hope to tide themselves through another state election and then let the movement take care of itself.

The followers do not know it and they will not believe it until it is too late to save the party from disgrace. For seven years the populists have cherished the anti-pass doctrine as one of the cardinal virtues of the reform movement and have carried it on their banners in every campaign. Now their leaders are carrying the passes, and the banners are in the dust. Every railroad pass held by a populist is the record of a self confessed lie upon his conscience and the printed advertisement of a chattel mortgage upon his personal honor. The leaders know this, but the will bear the stigma without shame and without remorse so long as the followers do not know it or do not revolt against it. In November and December of last year between 600 and 700 free passes were issued to small bore fusionists throughout the state. Five hundred of them were in Lincoln at one time within two weeks after the election all on free passes procured by the newly elected state officials and other leaders who were in position to make demands. When the present year began over 800 annuals were secured by those now in the state house for their personal use, and these annuals are in their pockets today. A railroad man tells me that the demand for the coming year, which the railroads must necessarily supply, will

reach 360 annuals for those who occupy state house positions. Of the 100 reform members in the last legislature, ninety-eight held up the railroads for free transportation for themselves, their families and friends, and most of them have continued their demands from time to time throughout the year. The number of free passes procured by these Nebraska reformers within the last twelve months would reach into many thousands.

Go out with a search light and see if you can find one leading reformer who shows any conscience in the matter. The reform press that cried out continually against passes when republicans were in power is as silent as a grave on that subject now. What! Are you dumb now, gentlemen of the reform press? Will you descend? Will you go down with your leaders into this slime of deception and hypocrisy and will you prostitute your private calling and your public function as the mouthpiece of your party and the guardian of its honor, that these worthies may prey upon the credulity of the public and upon the corporations during the brief period of their temporary glory? Is there anything in it for you? You get your mileage and you get it legitimately for you earn it. Don't you see that it is only a matter of time when this pass business will hang like a millstone about your party's neck to pull it down?

There are twenty-five young men drawing salaries here at the state house, drawing a pocket full of annual passes every year, drawing favors here and there for the friends who flunk about and flit after them. Not one of these young bloods, these royal favorites of the populist court, ever bent his back over a hand press or toiled by the mid night lamp to get out the weekly paper.

Not one of them ever did a legitimate thing to advance the reform movement, but now they sit at the king's table. They are clothed in purple and fine linen. They toil not neither do they spin; except to spin yarns and exchange gossip as to the cut of their tailor made clothes, the latest brand of fine cigars, or the twittering gossip from the whist club.

Who is that plain man who waits so long and so patiently while the well dressed clerks crack whispered jokes at his expense? Oh, he's just a reform editor. He furnishes a weekly door mat for the reform movement. And why does he wait so long? Why? The pass distributor is holding a private conference with the state official. They are making out a list of annuals for 1898. There'll be some Christmas gifts sent out under state postage and each one will be a guarantee that the farmers of that locality will be properly rounded up for the next state convention and that the local paper will be kept in line. Now gentlemen of the reform press, you may as well look the truth squarely in the face. This pass business is eating into the vitals of your party and you know it. Its a chattel mortgage on your party's honor and will be foreclosed sooner or later. It avails you nothing to print slurs against those who are trying to cultivate higher political sentiment among the people. Why not unite with the republican press to drive the pass grabbers out of politics in all parties? The next republican state convention will set the pace for reform on this line. Now is the time to discuss this question. The people realize, when they come to consider, that there can come no real reform to state politics and state government until the pass grabbing hypocrite is turned down. J. W. JOHNSON.

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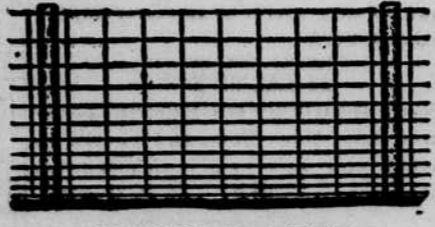
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