

THE FRONTIER.

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D. H. CRONIN, EDITOR.



WEYLER announces that his only mission in life now is to avenge himself for the insults offered in President McKinley's message. He wants war, and would like first rate to lead and invading army. A single camp of Holt county vigilantes would rub him and his army off the map.

A MEETING of the freeholders and taxpayers of O'Neill and Grattan township is to be held in the courthouse in O'Neill at 10 o'clock, A. M. or January 8, 1898. The object of the meeting is to call a halt on the extravagant expenditure of money of the taxpayers in fighting the Grattan township bonds voted and turned over in good faith years ago to the builders of the Pacific Short Line. When these bonds were voted it was by the very decisive vote of 500 for the bonds to ten against them and the conditions were that the bonds should be delivered upon completion of the road through Grattan township to O'Neill. The railroad builders carried out their part of the contract, the bonds were delivered and in the delivery of them the taxpayers carried out their part of the contract. So far, so good. Later, however, a very few of our worthy citizens undertook to contest the validity of the bonds and H. E. Murphy, now of Chicago, Ill., then county attorney and a popular gentleman, was employed at the sacrificing figure, to himself, of \$1,500 cash down and a promise that he should receive \$1,500 more if the bonds were finally held to be invalid. Mr. Murphy received the \$1,500 and the township, besides paying him this exorbitant sum, also paid the expenses incurred in the case. Through the different stages of litigation the case was lost to the township and just recently the United States Circuit Court for the district of Nebraska held that the bonds were good and should be paid. It is now proposed, we understand, by Mr. Murphy, to appeal from the decision of the United States Circuit Court and carry the case to the Court of Appeals at a cost, which cannot be avoided if the case is taken up, of several hundred dollars more.

We are glad to see the movement on the part of the taxpayers to stop such a useless expenditure of money in an effort to repudiate the honest debts of the township and believe it will result in much good, not only in stopping the throwing of good money after bad but in giving notice to the outside world that we individually and as a municipality believe in the payment of debts we have contracted and are opposed to repudiation in any form. The sooner that individuals and municipalities realize that honesty is the best policy the sooner will they enjoy the confidence of those who have money to invest and are looking for suitable places to invest it.

We believe that every enterprising citizen of O'Neill and Grattan township is anxious to see the Pacific Short Line extended on west from O'Neill and that they would be glad to see this done under the management and guidance of the man who brought it here, Donald McLean. Mr. McLean writes to several people here that he proposes to build the road on from here, but he says, too, that he finds it hard to interest capital for many reasons, chief among them being that investors fight shy of investing where the people are inclined to repudiate or give trouble in the way of litigation.

PASS IT ALONG.

LINCOLN, NEB., DEC. 26, 1897.—Special Correspondence: I got a letter this week from "an Abe Lincoln republican" of Hamilton county. He denounces me as a slanderer of good men, says that the populists of his neighborhood do not read these letters, do not believe them, are indignant that such bold falsehoods should be published broadcast, especially such as the last week's letter which treated of passes; and

that because of these wicked slanders the republicans in his locality are joining the populist movement out of sympathy for the persecuted state house officials.

I am sorry to offend good men, especially these Abe Lincoln republicans, and do not understand how they can be offended at what has been published if they have not read it, but for the sake of all such, I will now repeat the indictment which stands against the official representatives of populism as to their greed for free passes, and will ask each republican reader to cut this letter out and mail it to some indignant populist who does not read the republican papers, that he may know just why he is indignant and in turn may mail it to the state house officials that they may know just why they are indignant, may know just what slanderous charges are being published against them and may have an opportunity to refute these slanders by a statement to the public.

I want to be perfectly fair, for I do not intend to be unjust toward any man. I write what I believe to be true. If it is untrue let those who are aggrieved come forward and defend themselves.

THIS IS THE INDICTMENT.

1. That a year ago each newly elected populist official within a few days after his election hurried to the railroad headquarters where he made arrangements for a year's supply of passes for himself, his family and his friends.

2. That between the 15th of November and the 31st of December, 1896, these officials and other reform leaders procured and sent out over 600 free passes.

3. That on assuming their offices at the first of this year, they demanded and received more annual railroad passes than were ever before issued in one year to occupants of the state house. This included Pullman passes and express franks.

4. That 98 of the reform members of the last legislature held up the railroads for passes for themselves and their families, and that most of them have continued to demand passes ever since.

5. That the state officers first set the example, that the legislative members then followed, that this bold lead by two branches of the state government threw off all restraint and had the effect to inoculate the fusion party with the pass itch from one and to the others until there is now established a complete pass system that reaches every county in the state, binding the party hand and foot, winding about it the coils of corporation and ring rule, so that today the party machinery is in complete control of its betrayers, who snap their fingers with contempt for all the platforms and promises which the reform party has made to the voters of this state.

6. That by means of this arrangement with the corporations and the establishment of this free pass system among the reform politicians, they have procured within the last twelve months and sent out to the "pass reformers" of this state more political passes than have been issued this year altogether, to all the political parties in all the states of Ohio, Indiana and Iowa combined.

7. That Governor Holcomb during his first two years, through his private secretary, procured from ex-Treasurer Bartley several hundred railroad passes which were sent out by the private secretary to the governor's political organizers throughout the state.

8. That Governor Holcomb and his private secretary now carry more annual passes than were issued to the last three republican governors and their private secretaries all told.

9. That Governor Holcomb has, procured for himself, his private secretary and their families more free ride, free bed and free board political junkets than any former republican executive in this state.

10. That Governor Holcomb, for the sake of a pleasure trip for himself, his private secretary and their families, which carried with it free ride, free bed and free board, allowed himself to be borrowed by the golf road and used as a decoy to attract the attention of Nebraska

people to the red apple country of Arkansas and the quinine districts of southeastern Texas.

11. That Auditor Cornell, who is a member of the state board of tax equalization, before he would pass on the railroad tax assessment, required the tax agent of one of the railroads to furnish him and his family a free junket to the Black Hills and return, by special train and private car, which was provided with all the extravagant eating and drinking that could be procured with railroad money.

12. That Auditor Cornell procured a similar junket to, through and from the scenic districts of Colorado, and that he and his Nebraska relations are now touring in the cities of the Atlantic coast on free ride and free bed railroad passes.

13. That Secretary Porter, while the legislature was yet in session, at the most critical period of his duties, junketed to the Gulf, paying for the courtesy with a newspaper interview on his return which recommended the south and startled Nebraska people with the statement that there are no mosquitoes in Florida.

The outlook now is that these pass reformers will secure more "forage" from the enemy next year than they have this year. No farmer gets a pass. They are only for the pass reform politicians who farm the farmers and the corporations both at the same time. Cut this out and pass it along. If you doubt the truth of it, cut it out, send it to the state house and wait for a letter of denial. These pass grabbing reformers cannot pass this by. They must either fish or cut bait.

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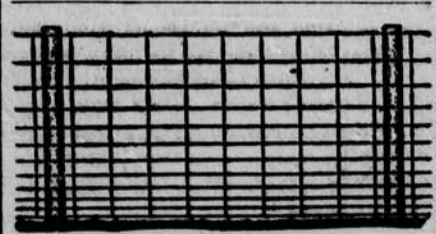
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