

THE FRONTIER.

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D. H. CRONIN, Editor.



There is nothing the matter with Hanna.

It is about time for the pops to ease up on their calamity wail.

The reformers who are holding down soft berths in the court-house want to look out for rats.

Yesterday Mark Hanna was elected United States senator for both the long and short terms by the Ohio legislature.

The North Nebraska Eagle has presented the name of W. E. Peebles, of Thurston county, as a prospective candidate for the republican nomination for governor.

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Press association which was to have been held at Lincoln on January 11 and 12, has been postponed to January 25 and 26. It is expected that this will be the largest meeting in the history of the organization.

Now that the Hawaiian annexation treaty is before the senate there is much speculation as to where the individual senators stand. Senator Thurston has been placed on both sides of the question, but it is now understood that he has about reached the conclusion to vote against annexation. He realizes that the proposed annexation is a radical departure from the established policy of this government. The senator has appreciated all the time the menace to the beet sugar industry from the annexation of the islands, sugar coming in from them and being transported over transcontinental lines at a very low rate, putting the severest and sharpest point of competition directly on Nebraska and adjoining states, where the soil and climatic conditions combine most favorably for the production of the sugar beet. For these reasons he will, it is now thought, vote against the treaty. Gear, of Iowa, will also vote against the measure, and tonight it looks as if the treaty were doomed to defeat. —Omaha Bee.

At the mass meeting of the citizens and taxpayers of the city of O'Neill and Grattan township held at the court house on last Saturday, resolutions were adopted by an overwhelming majority denouncing repudiation and instructing the township board to discontinue the further litigation of the Grattan township bonds. In another column of this issue we publish these resolutions in full. In taking this very decisive action, which we believe to be deserving of the highest praise and commendation, the taxpayers have reared a lasting monument to the integrity and honesty of the people of this community. They voiced their feelings upon these matters in no mistaken terms, and in a manner that cannot well go undecided by the officers of the township. It is true that there were a few who attended the meeting who did not share the same views entertained by the large majority, but, while this is to be regretted, we cannot think that these few were fully informed upon the questions at issue. People are sometimes prone to allow prejudices to influence their decisions and to think that the interest of the taxpayer of one part of the township in a matter of this kind is not common with that of the interest of the taxpayer of another part. In this they are undeniably wrong. The people should all work together for the common good, and at all times present an unbroken front against anything that smacks of repudiation. The township board, elected by the people to do the will and carry out the wishes of the people, will prove themselves worthy of the confidence reposed in them when they were elected if they take no further action and make no further effort to destroy the validity of the Grattan township bonds.

THE REFORMERS.

LINCOLN, NEB., Jan. 8, 1898.—Special Correspondence: The discussion of Governor Holcomb's greed for "house rent" has brought prominent before the public mind here at Lincoln another example of greed and the filching of unlawful money from the public pocket contrary to the express provisions of the constitution.

One wrong brings another. The example of the chief executive is always potent to raise or lower the morality of state government. When Governor Holcomb sent out his lobbyists to plead for a "house rent" appropriation which everyone knew was unconstitutional, that was a sign that he was not the high minded reformer which he had pretended to be, and the understrapper politicians of his party, taking the hint from him, entered into a general scramble for all manner of political spoil.

The place hunters swarmed by the hundreds into Lincoln from over the state at the convening of the legislature. There were more applicants than places. They talked a great deal at the country picnics about a reform which they would inaugurate in which the offices would seek the men and not the men the offices, but in this they seem to have been about as honest as they were in the past reform which they promised, for as soon as they got into power there commenced such a hustling for office as had never been seen before.

When the steering committee which had in charge the distribution of patronage took an invoice of the number of places and the number of applicants, they found the ratio about 16 to 1, about as it had been under republican rule, except that each of these reformers had an aching void which was more empty and ached with more intensity than any aching voids had ever ached before.

The appointive offices most sought after were the secretaryships of the state board of transportation. These places drew \$2,000 each, with an unlimited supply of passes and under the arrangement which had been made with the railroads there was to be no work to do, and so these three situations were considered snaps.

For these three snaps there were over fifty applicants. Besides it had been stipulated that the railroads must O K these appointments. Among these fifty applicants were five members of the house and senate who would not be put off for they claimed to have promises which entitled them to the offices or to a row which would make plenty of trouble, not only for the rig but for the railroads as well.

Now right at this point is where the ingenuity of this reform movement showed itself and where the governor's "house rent" precedent was potent to invite unconstitutional appropriations. Two years before, Governor Holcomb had demanded and received an unconstitutional appropriation of \$1,500 for "house rent," and why could not these five members, who were to be disappointed as to the railroad secretaryships, reach their hands into the public pocket and get fifteen hundred dollars each by some unconstitutional appropriation if they could get the house to pass it?

Right here they evolved the idea of putting these five members of the legislature on the investigating committee, giving them permanent positions at \$5 a day, notwithstanding the constitution expressly stipulates that members of the legislature shall draw pay only while the legislature is in session and their compensation shall not exceed \$300.

Now it takes two to make a bargain. It took both the executive and the legislative departments of the state government to get this money in this unlawful way. The legislature appropriated it and the governor signed the appropriation, because the governor himself had already absorbed an unlawful appropriation of \$1,500 during his first two years and was now asking for another like amount, and he was in no position to question, or listen to the voice of conscience which must have whispered to him the oath in

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J. P. MANN.

which he had sworn to obey the constitution.

Whenever a governor demands for himself an unconstitutional appropriation of money, then that governor's mouth is sealed and he must acquiesce in any other unconstitutional appropriation. If that legislature had voted \$1,500 to each of its members, as it did to these five, it would have been just as lawful and the governor would have been obliged to approve it, or else to veto and refuse the \$1,500 "house rent."

Everybody can understand this. Its a plain case of breaking the constitution and breaking into the treasury and the money so obtained is as unlawful as if they had procured it by cracking a safe.

Crouse had seen the immorality of the "house rent" steal and had vetoed it. Boyd had realized the dishonesty of it and the danger of such an example, and had refused to touch it. Now there is no partisan abuse in this. It is a plain matter of the unlawful taking of money and everybody can understand it. It was lawful to appropriate the \$10,000 for investigating purposes, but it was not lawful for any member of the legislature to touch one dollar more than the \$300 stipulated in the constitution, and it is unlawful for the governor to take the \$1,500 "house rent."

stand it. It was lawful to appropriate the \$10,000 for investigating purposes, but it was not lawful for any member of the legislature to touch one dollar more than the \$300 stipulated in the constitution, and it is unlawful for the governor to take the \$1,500 "house rent."

Cut this out, mail it to Governor Holcomb and ask him to explain the unconstitutional "house rent" steal. Ask the five legislative members who are drawing \$5 a day each if they can explain and make these appropriations match with the constitution which they have sworn to obey. Don't scold at republican writers, populist reader. Spend your fury on the men who have betrayed you. By such a course you will reform your own party and will demonstrate your own individual political honesty and your dignity and self-respect as a citizen.

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