

THE FRONTIER.

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By the employment of the Omaha gentleman the supervisors have admitted that they are incompetent to perform the duties of their office.

CONGRESSMAN BILL GREENE does not cut much ice in the national halls of congress, and many of his admirers in this section of the country are disappointed thereat. Poor Bill, your days in congress are numbered.

THE Wayne Republican has entered on its fifth year and is one of the most prosperous country papers in the state. The Republican is deserving of success as in our opinion it is the best edited paper in Northeast Nebraska. This is no bouquet, either.

Down in Olathe, Kansas, at a mass meeting of the citizens, the disclosure that ex-Governor John P. St. John (pronounced Sinjin) had signed a whiskey seller's petition for a license, created a racket that for a time threatened to become a riot. The efforts of Mr. Sinjin, otherwise "St. John," to explain away his sin were fruitless, and the W. C. T. U. and the prohibs cast him forth into outer darkness. Towards the latter end of the meeting no less than three orators were constantly speaking at once. It is estimated that the victim was asked questions at the rate of thirty per second, and of course he was downed.—State Journal.

It is a matter of public comment all over the country that, notwithstanding Senator Windy V. Allen several days ago attacked Tom Reed, the czar of the house, in a fierce and furious manner on the floor of his own barnyard, and told the entire country that he was "responsible for his statements there and elsewhere and at any time," he is still wandering at large with his nose unsmashed. Is it possible that Mr. Reed has not yet heard of the defiance of this renowned defier? Or doesn't Tom care a cuss? What are the rules of etiquette when a bantam crows through the picket fence at a game cock?—State Journal.

To A MAN up a tree the recent "expert" examination of the books in the county treasurer's office by State Examiner Arehard has a singular look, and bears a marked resemblance to the work of the pop investigating committees that have tried to make out that every republican official in the state was a defaulter. The most surprising feature of his report is, that F. G. Russell, republican, handled \$90,000 in the four years he was in office and that his commissions were only \$1878, while B. L. Chambers, populist, handled \$14,000 in the two years he was in office and his commissions amounted to \$1185, or within \$188 as much as Russell got. If you doubt this statement go to the clerk's office and look at Arehard's report, and you will probably agree with us that what is now needed is an expert that has no political bias.—Butte Gazette.

People throughout Nebraska will regret that Gene Moore has escaped the penitentiary on a technicality. He got away with about \$26,000, money paid to him by the insurance companies doing business in the state, and he should suffer for his crime. As the charge of embezzlement of state funds could not be made to stick, there is probably some other charge upon which he can be arraigned before the bar of justice and made to do time for his illegal and corrupt practices. We are not a student of Blackstone nor do we pretend to know much about law, but we believe that if he were charged and tried with obtaining money under false pretenses it would about hit his case. But if the law is such that he cannot again be tried for the offense it

should be changed. Law is supposed to mete out justice and if it is so that a criminal can escape the consequences of his acts through a loop hole or apparent flaw, that defect should be remedied. It is only the criminal who seeks the technical points in law and we believe that if they were eliminated the wrong-doer would be more apt to receive his just deserts.

ABOUT PROSPERITY.

An esteemed correspondent regarding the Northwestern Catholic as a purveyor of national prosperity, writes the following inquiries:

"Where now is your prosperity? Where are the good times that you have been predicting? Is not all this talk about good times a will-o-the-wisp and a delusion? If times have improved where is the evidence and who are the beneficiaries?"

Some men are so constituted that they can see a fly on a barn door at the distance of a mile, but they cannot see the barn; and there are others so disposed that they could not admit the existence of day in the light of the noonday sun. There were men among the crews of Columbus who wanted to turn back, after they had seen the land birds perching on the vessels and could smell the odors of the orange groves of San Domingo. Good times and bad times are relative terms. Times may be bad in some localities and good in others. With some men times are always good, and with others they are always bad. Whether the country is prosperous or otherwise cannot be determined by the existing conditions in a particular family or a certain locality; but the evidence of increasing activity in industry and trade is too palpable to be talked down or denied. For 1897 bank clearings show a gain of \$6,000,000, or about 12 per cent. over 1896, with the volume of clearings at present advancing at still greater rate. Two hundred railroads, representing 150,000 miles of track, report for 1897 increased earnings of nearly \$60,000,000 over 1896, and in the same period only eighteen roads, representing 1,550 miles of track, went into the hands of receivers, against thirty-four roads, representing 5,500 miles of track, for the preceding year. There were not only 2,000 less commercial failures in 1897 than in 1896, but the aggregate liabilities were \$90,000,000 less. The total output of pig iron last year, although the largest on record for this country, promises to be exceeded during the current year, while the demand, both at home and abroad, for steel rails, locomotives and other finished products is steadily widening.

The single weak spot in our industrial system today is the cotton industry of New England; but the cotton mills of the south are running on full time. Nor can the American farmer reasonably complain. He received for his breadstuffs in 1897 double the money he received in 1894 or 1895, and nearly 50 per cent. more than he received in 1896. The value of breadstuffs exported from the United States in 1894 was \$121,123,377; in 1895, \$121,571,555; in 1896, \$177,278,405; in 1897, \$243,121,108. In nearly all other articles of farm produce the exportations for 1897 were far beyond those of preceding years in value, and the prices generally higher.

Whether with a sound and honest system of bimetalism the country would not be still more prosperous is an open question upon which good, intelligent and patriotic men may honestly differ; and whether our present system of protective tariff helps or hinders prosperity is also debatable. But that the condition of this country has vastly improved over the condition of one, two or four years ago, there can be no question. That the country is at last fairly prosperous is a fact, thank God. Let those who will trace this blessed condition to human causes at their leisure. For our part we will take it for granted that bounteous crops and big prices are the dispensations of God's grace and mercy, and are accordingly thankful and gratified.—Northwestern Catholic.

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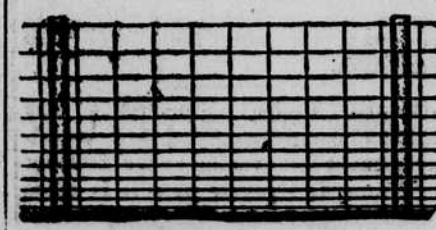
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