## FRONTIER.

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## the Consideration

The action of the populist county convention in re-nominating County Attorney A. F. Mullen, makes the tax foreclosure system the paramount issue for the second time in this county. It was thought by many, previous to the convention, that the populist party would not have the temerity to place so vulnerable a candidate as Mullen before the people of this county. The convention, however, was domineered by the Mullen-Eves-Harrington O'Neill Land Syndicate, and the nomination of Mullen forced.

Mr. Mullen stated in his speach of acceptance that he anticipated a "bitter" campaign. So far as The Frontier is concerned, we wish to assure Mr. Mullen there will be no "bitterness" in this campaign, unless the publication of his acts as they appear upon the public records of this county may appear "bitter" to him. We bear no personal animosity toward Mr. Mullen except the contempt we hold for any public official who has so disgraced his office and violated the trust the people have placed in him. We propose to discuss his official record as dispassionately as the circumstances will

The working of the tax foreclosure system in the interest of the O'Neill land syndicate and the fraud and corruption in the county attorney's office was first given publicity in the columns of The Fronticr of October 3, 1901, and the revelations then made furnished the issues on which the memorable campaign of a year ago was fought out in this county, which resulted in the election of a republican sheriff, clerk and board of supervisors.

There are, doubtless, many who do not fully understand the real nature of the county foreclosures for delinquent taxes. A brief summary of the important features of the litigation may not be out of place here. There is no statutory provision authorizing the county attorney to bring any such action or adopt this method of collecting taxes. The plan was conceived by M. F. Harrington, he getting his inspiration from a decision of the supreme court in which the court indicated that a county can maintain an action at any time to enforce the collection of delinquent taxes. The supreme court has never passed squarely on the question. Many attorneys contend that the actions are wholly illegal and a recent case decided from Daynes courts would seem to so indicate. The cided from Dawes county would seem to so indicate. The system was conceived in iniquity in this county and the whole proceedings from start to finish have been wrought with fraud and corruption in which County Attorney Mullen has been the star actor. The cases have not been brought for the purpose of collecting the delinquent taxes, as is claimed by County Attorney Mullen and the rest of the land pirates in O'Neill, but for the purpose of grabbing land and putting into the pockets or the populist press of this county thousands of dollars in exorbitant publication fees. In the issue of The Front-tier of October 3, 1901, it was shown that up until that time 503 cases had been filed in which Holt county was plaintiff. A detailed statement of the cases were published showing the name of defendent, numbers of land, amount of tax involved and amount of printer's fees charged in each case. It was shown by that statement that the populist papers of this county had received as their share of the booty in connection with this nefarious deal the enormous sum of \$9,472.64 according to their own statements on file, divided as follows:

Hoit County Independent..... \$6,196.64 Atkinson Plain Dealer...... Ewing Advocate..... 755.00 Stuart Herald.....

Total..... \$9,472.64 The notices were unnecessarily long-some of them running as high as \$72—when a \$10 or \$15 notice would have answered the same purpose.

So manifestly unjust and dishonest were Mullen's actions in this that the then populist board of supervisors administered to him a stinging rebuke by the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas, It has come to the knowledge of this board that the county attorney, W. R. Butler and A. F. Mullen, have caused to be published in county tax foreclosure cases notices costing from \$25 to \$72; and-

Whereas, In our opinion proper and legal notices can be published at an expense of from \$10 to \$15 in each case;

Whereas, Numerous complaints and protests have been made, and in our opinion justly, against the unnecessarily long and expensive notices; and-

Whereas, Said notices as now published are an injustice to the land owners, whether resident or non-resident, and a useless and unnecessary expense to the county as well as to the tax payers and land owners, reflecting no credit on Holt

county or its people; therefore be it-Resolved, That we do not approve, and hereby disapprove, of the publishing of such notices by the legal representatives

of Holt county; and be it further—
Resolved, That our present county attorney be instructed to discontinue this method of making unnecessary costs to the county, its tax payers and land owners; and be it further-

Resolved, That this resolution be spread upon the records and a copy be served on County Attorney A. F. Mullen by the county clerk.

This resolution was passed on September 28, 1901, and can be found in Supervisors Recrd "F" at page 561. By the adoption of this resolution it was supposed by the board that no more cases would be filed and that this damnable practice would cease. It did cease but only for a short time. Election was held and the people of this county, by their ballots, placed the stamp of disapproval on this method of robbing the county out of thousands of dollars and unfortunate people out of their land.

In the face of these instructions from the board and the expressed will of the people of this county, Mullen had the brazen affrontry to file 180 new cases from November 26, 1901 to January 2, 1092-a period of 38 days-and the publication fees charged, as shown by books on file, amount to the enormous sum of \$4,585.25 and is divided between the Holt County Independent and Ewing Advocate as follows:

Holt County Independent	\$3,565.25
Ewing Advocate	1,020.00
Total	
Below we give a detailed statement of the tax of	cases refer-
red to, showing number of case, defendent, number involved and printer's fees charged.	rs of land

The above amount, together with amounts charged in cases started previous to last election, make a total of \$14,057.-89 that Holt county and the land owners have paid or are to pay the populist papers of this county for this infamous tax forclosure system, and the amount is divided among them as

have received in the past three years as their share of the plunder in this robbery. Is it at all strange Mr. Tax Payer that they should be such earnast advocates of the system. In one day, December 30, 1901, Mullen filed thirty-six cases in which the printers fees amount to \$769.50. Think of it, Mr. Tax Payer, this but represents the part of a steal for one day of this corrupt combination. It will be noted that most of these cases were filed during the last days of December, 1901, Mullen knowing full well that the county board were to meet on January 2, 1902, and that they would then put a stop to his damnable work which they did by the passage of the following resolution immediately after calling the roll:

Be it resolved, that the county attorney be instructed to file no more tax lien foreclosure suits in which Holt county is made plaintiff.

Be it further resolved that the clerk of the district court be instructed to file no more papers in any tax foreclosure case commenced after this date in which Holt county is plaintiff.

Be it further resolved, that the county clerk be instructed to forthwith serve a copy of these resolutions on the county attorney and clerk of the district court.

Let it be remembered that this resolution was passed by the old board which was populist, and there was much talk at the time, among several of them, about impeaching Mullen for his reprehensible conduct.

The rake off of twenty per cent. paid the county attorneys by the populist papers as an inducement to bring the action and adopt the "long drawn out" process with the notices has been but a tithe of the income of the county attorneys office as a result of this nefarious system which has robbed many people of their land and defrauded the county out of thousands of dollars of taxes.

When the present republican board of supervisors were inducted into office one of their first official acts was to place their stamp of disapproval on the proceedings and instead the county treasurer was instructed to notify, by letter, non-resident land owners to pay their taxes, which the county treas. urer has been doing, and the result has been that more taxes have been paid into the county treasurer the past six months than any like period in the history of the county. This fact proves that foreclosure proceedings are not necessary to collect taxes except as a last resort and in very exceptional cases. The whole system, as it has been conducted in this county, the tax payers and land ownerf have been the victims and the county attorney, populist papers and little band of land pirates have been the beneficiaries of the plunder. We stand aghast at their very boldness and defiance.

As has been heretofore demonstrated through the columns of The Frontier the greatest graft and source of revenue to the county attorney and his co-conspirators is the means the foreclosure system affords them for getting title to thousands of acres of land, at a very little cost, which they are selling to the farmers of this county at from three to ten times what it has cost them. Lack of space prevents us from specializing on this feature of the transactions at this time but we promise our readers that it will be given proper attention before the

campaign closes. The election of Art Mullen and a populist board of supervisors means that the foreclosure system will be renewed with all its hellishness, as it means thousands of dollars into the pocket of the county attorney and his coterie of land pirates. They know this and will use every conceivable method to befog the minds of the voters of the county in an attempt to evade the issue that is of so much importance to every taxpayer in the county. We will hear much braying of the galled jades. The election of J. J. King, republican candidate for county attorney, means that the taxes of the county will be collected in the regular lawful way without unnecessary expense to the county and the tax payer. We believe the intelligent voters of the county realize the importance of this and can distinguish between a good citizen who will make a faithful public servant tnan a professional politician and grafter who has disgraced the office he holds by a course of fraud and violence without a paralell in the annals of Holt county politics. Following is an itemized list of cases above referred

Case No. Plaintiff. Defendants.

6540	County of Holt Frank Jordan, se <sup>1</sup> 4 28-26-10	
6542	County of Holt Wm. Erskine, ne 4 15-31-14	30.00
6545	County of Holt Moore, ne1/4 28-27-10	25.00
6565	County of Holt E. Goodyear, nw 4 34-31-9	32.50
6566	County of Holt Col. & U. S. Mrtg. Co., sw1/4 18-31-9	
6572	County of Holt Pat McDonnell, se¼ 30-27-13	30.00
6573	County of Holt M. Wilson, sw 4 18-25-13	30.00
6578	County of Holt H. N. McKee, ne 1/4 35-32-10	32.50
6582	County of Holt J. L. Moore, s1/2 sw1/4, w1/2 se1/4 28-25-12.	35.00
6588	County of Holt W. H. Hawkins, nw1/4 23-25-12	
6589	County of Holt E. A. Engler, nw 1/4 10-27-11	30.00
6605	County of Holt Wm. Wilder, ne 4 3-25-12	
6617	County of Holt J. V. McDowell, nw 1/4 nw 1/4 14, se 1/4 ne 1/4,	
2200	nffl ne¼ 15-26-10	
6618	County of Holt Geo. Keeper, sw¼ ne¼, w½ se¼ 30, nw¼ ne¼ 31-27-12	
6619	County of HoltE. Drake, nw 1/4 7-29-10	30.00
6622	County of Holt F. Logan, n1/2 sw1/4, sw1/4 sw1/4 5-27-15	25.00
6710	County of Holt Robert P. Field, w1/2 sw1/4, se1/4 sw1/4,	
	sw¼ se¼ 30-27-10	22.50
6575	County of Holt Lester M. Hall, n1/2 ne1/4, sw1/4 ne1/4	
E EDWARD	11-31-10	20.05
6723	County of Holt Janett B. Herbage, nw 1/4 8-27-11	30.00

Printer's Fees.

0	I	th	ie Voter	S.
6580	County o	f Holt	Richard D. Harlan, sel4 9, el/2 nw1/4, sw1/4	
6646	County		nw¼ 10-32-13 Frederick J. Burnett, ne¼ sw¼, nw¼ sw¼, sw¼ sw¼, sw¼	27.50
			se¼, sw¼ sw¼ 30- 31-16	27.50
6547 6548	County of		se¼ 33-33-15  Matilda Gardner, s½ n½ 28-26-11	30.00
6602	County		Sterling Girardet, ne 1/4 19-32-13	30.00 40.00
6639	County o	of Holt	Mary E. Archard, n 25 acres ne¼ nw¼ 4-32, w½ se¼, se¼	
6603	County o	of Holt	and se¼ ne¼ and ne¼ 25-30-10  Douglas Gandy, ne¼ 1-29-10	25.00
6546	County o	of Holt	Unknown Heirs of Christian Martig, sw <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 13-28-12	32.50 7.50
6621 6574	County of	of Holt	Mary E. Foss, ne¼ 17-29-10 Ford & Keith, sw¼ 25-26-12	30.00 30.00
6550 6703 6614	County of	f Holt	George Graves, nw¼ 13-27-13 Henry M. Price, se¼ 10-27-13 Mary E. Foss, se¼ 8-29-10	25.00 15.00 30.00
6560 6601	County o	f Holt	Samuel Peugh, se¼ 27-32-16 Mary B. Parker, w¼ ne¼ and e¼ nw¼	30.00
6598	County o		E. A. Engler, nw <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 10-27-11	37.50 30.00
6564	County o		John R. Pointer, e½ sw¼, sw¼ se¼ & se¼ nw¼ 35-32-10 E. F. Ringer, sw¼ 11-27-9	30.00 30.00
6643 6649	County o	f Holt	Elizabeth Collins, sw¼ 28-31-16 Henry T. Clark, ne¼ sw¼, nw¼ sw¼.	12.50
0000	Commen		sw¼ sw¼, se¼ sw¼ and sw¼ 22-31-16	27.50
6630 6657 6558	County o	f Holt	Wesley Colver, ne <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 3-31-13	27.50 30.00
6576	County o	f Holt	J. Q. Clark, nw <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 8-27-13	17.50 27.50
6599 6627	County o	f Holt	Wm. E. Dick, nw¼ 28-29-15 Geo. W. E. Dorsey,nw¼ 10-28-13	25.00 30.00
6598 6562 6551	County o County o	f Holt	Geo. W. E. Dorsey, nw¼ 12-29-10  Annie M. Davis, se¼ 32-29-14  Delia E. Bucklin, se¼ 28-32-13	30.00 25.00 82.50
6641 6620	County o	f Holt	Clark D. Knapp, nw¼ 23-30-15 Charles Knehl, s½ sw¼ 22, n½ nw¼	32.50
6689	County o	f Holt	John J. Johnson, e½ nw¼ and sw¼	35.00
6854	County o	f Holt	nw¼ 2, se¼ ne¾ 3-32-16	32.50
6585			of McCafferty's Add Horace Hawley, s½ ne¼, e½ se¼	
6695 6570	County o	f Holt	Joseph Harris, sw <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> 34-29-13	32.50 32.50
6573	County o		John T. Hanna, se¼ ne¼ and e¼ se¼ 11-32-16	30.00
6579 6651	County o	f Holt f Holt	Henry S. Wyman, nw¼ 32-25-12 O. M. Mitchell, n¼ 31-28-13	45.00
6611	County o		George A. Magney, e½ se¼ 9, w½ nw¼ 10-32-16	37.50
6655	County o		J. L. Moore, e½ sw¼, sw¼ sw¼ 5, ne¼ nw¼ 8-32-15	30.00
6559 6608	County o	f Holt	J. L. Moore, nw¼ 18-31-9	30.00 32.50
6628 6615 6536	County o	f Holt	Nonie Murphey, se¼ 31-28-12	27.50 35.00 32.50
6563	County o		Omaha & Lincoln Realty Co., se 1/4	30.00
6612 6541	County of		George Olcott, n½ sw¼ and w½ se¼ 17-25-10	37.50
6687	County of		J. L. Moore, n½ ne¼ 27-25-12 Oregon House & Land Co., n½ sw¼, w½ se¼ 15-27-6	18.75
6534 6645	County of	f Holt	Peter F. McKinna, ne¼ 29-25-12 James McAllister, nw¼ 28-31-16	30.00 27.50
6577 6561	County of		H. M. McKee, s½ n½ 30-27-13 Daniel McDonald, lot 11, block 49 in Mc-	27.50
6530	County o	f Holt	Cafferty's Addition  Josie W. Shields, ne¼ se¼, nw¼ se¼, se¼, se¼, se¼, se¼, se¼, se¼,	15.00
6586	County o		se¼ 33-30-10 Wm. Short, w¼ w¼ 3-32-13	27.50 30.00
6549 6597	County o		Geo. West, n½ sw¼, se¼ nw¼, sw¼ sw¼ 7-32-12	32.50
	100		ne¼, se¼ ne¼, ne¼ 5-30-9	30.00
6720 6665	County o	f Holt f Holt	Ira G. Lutz, e½ nw¼ 25-29-10 Unknown Heirs of H. Tainter, e½ se¼	15.00
6581	County o	f Holt .	24, e½ ne¼ 25-29-13 ne¼ and sw¼ ne¼ Frank S. Barnes, n½ ne¼, ne¼ nw¼	30.00
			3, nw¼ nw¼ 2-32-13. B. F. Barto, s½ ne¼ and se¼ sw¼	\$30.00
			27-32-14	25.00
6836	County o	f Holt	sw¼ 23, se¼ se¼ 22·32·12	30.00
6596			ne¼ ne¼ 13-32-12 Charles F. Bliven, ne¼ nw¼, nw¼ nw¼,	22.50
6699	County o	of Holt	sw¼ nw¼, se¼ nw¼ nw¼ 33-30-9 Charles E. Gibson, s½ nw¼ 33, e½ ne¼	30.00
6696	County o		32-26-13	15.00
6650	County o		& ne¼ sw¼ 11-32-16 Handerkan Nehoff, nw¼ 25-27-12	22.50 30.00
6668 6694 6702	County of	f Holt	Delevan Beck, sw¼ 15-32-16	15.00 30.00
			Unknown Heirs of W.W., n½ sw¼, nw¼ se¼ 26, ne¼ se¼ 27-27-16	22.50
6672	County of	entered in	A. L. Hobart, w½ ne¼ e½ nw¼ 23-25-13	15.00
6706	County of		Isaac Douglas, s½ se¼ 31-28-11, e½ ne¼ 6-27-11	17.50 15.00
6692 6698	County of	of Holt	N. C. Bagley, s½ sw¼ 27-26-13 Thomas Langan, e½ sw¼, w½ se¼	12.50
6697 6691	County of		10-32-16	17.50 20.00
6677	County of		Conrad Thalen, se¼ 17-33-14	12.50 35.00
6713	County of	of Holt	Oregon House & Land Co., sw¼ se¼, s½ sw¼ 26, se¼ se¼	
6707 6709	County of		27-27-16	27.50 15.00
0109	County (	J. Hoft	Geo. Meltonberger, ne¼ ne¼ 31 and w½ nw¼ and se¼	22.00

w½ nw¼ and se¼ nw¼ 32-27-15 .....

nw¼ se¼ 23-31-16...

10-29-10

6675 County of Holt Jacob Kendis, e1/2 ne1/4, sw1/4 ne1/4 and

6676 County of Holt Hubert Williams, sw¼ ne¼, se¼ sw¼, w½ se¼ 11-32-16 ... 6688 County of Holt J. Q. Clark, nw¼ 12-27-13 ....

(Concluded on Page 8.)