

Facts for the Consideration of the Voters.

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.

Mr. Mullen stated in his speech 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.

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 Frontier 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 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; and—

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.

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, 1902—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:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Amount. Holt County Independent \$3,565.25, Ewing Advocate 1,020.00, Total \$4,585.25

Below we give a detailed statement of the tax cases referred to, showing number of case, defendant, numbers of land involved and printer's fees charged.

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 foreclosure system, and the amount is divided among them as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Amount. Holt County Independent \$9,761.89, Atkinson Plain Dealer 2,408.50, Ewing Advocate 1,774.00, Stuart Herald 112.00, Total \$14,057.89

This represents the amount the pop papers of this county 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 earnest advocates of the system. In one day, December 30, 1901, Mullen filed thirty-six cases in which the printers fees amount to \$769.50.

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 treasurer 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.

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.

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 beguile 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.

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 than a professional politician and grafter who has disgraced the office he holds by a course of fraud and violence without a parallel in the annals of Holt county politics.

Following is an itemized list of cases above referred to:

Table with 4 columns: Case No., Plaintiff, Defendants, Printer's Fees. Lists cases 6540-6723 with corresponding amounts.

Table with 4 columns: Case No., County of Holt, Name, Amount. Lists cases 6580-6714 with corresponding amounts.

(Concluded on Page 8.)