

The Frontier

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GILLIGAN SHAKES FACTS AT THE "ASSASSIN."

Mr. Editor: In the last issue of the "character assassin" sheet known as the Holt County Independent, I am attacked in two very abusive and vile articles.

Mr. Editor, let it be known that the "publisher" so-called of that sheet, while he is contemptible enough to print these articles, in order to divert attention from the gang of pirates that are seeking to cover up their rottenness by accusing others with crime, does not write them. The cowardly coyote who writes them hasn't the courage to sign them, as that alone would kill the whole article. The attorney-at-law, character assassin coyote, who is filling the columns of the Independent with libelous personal abuse, charges that because I did not vote for the Bedford railroad rate bill (which bill was drawn by M. F. Harrington for pure political buncombe to be made use of just as it now is, and was not worth the paper it was written on) that "I betrayed the people" and "did everything that the railroads wanted and that was all they expected of any man who got \$25,000 of their corruption funds."

This a fair sample of campaign lies that the gang of character assassins have put in circulation in every campaign in this county for the past 12 years. To show how baseless is this charge I have but to call attention to the fact that the Bedford bill never reached the senate, of which I was a member, hence I had no opportunity of voting either for or against the bill.

I cannot see the logic in a charge that I should be as low as a populist and be ready to sell my vote for \$25,000 when the bill never reached the senate and my vote could have no possible bearing on the bill.

I desire to brand the underhanded innuendo that I was purchased by the railroads for any sum as a falsehood, uttered through pure malice; a lie uttered by a lying cowardly sneak, who probably bought his own way into office.

They also say that I voted against a jury bribing bill and that I am a friend of R. R. Dickson. I am proud to say that I am a friend of Dickson, nor am I an enemy of any man. As to the charge that I voted against the "jury bribing bill" it is a plain, common lie, uttered by a whelp who did not have the courage to sign his name after making the charge. The "character assassin" says it can show that I voted against the bill; to prove this assertion it invites anyone to come and look at the public record. I have also a copy of the only public record issued of any value, the senate journal for 1905, and it plainly says - at page 522 that no votes were cast against the bill. Now, Mr. Publisher of the "Holt County Independent," I will put up \$100 if you will put up \$100, in the hands of either bank cashier in O'Neill and if you are not a liar and your statement not a lie absolutely I will give my money to any church or charitable institution in the county, and if your statement is a miserable lie about me you to make public retraction and forfeit your \$100 in the same way. The offer is made to the cur who wrote the article as well as the one who published it.

I was one of those who heartily favored that bill, because it would strike a hard blow at the gang of populist scoundrels who have been fixing juries in Holt county for years, and all that is necessary is to look up the list of criminals in Holt county, who have been freed without reason. When this bill was up for discussion in committee of the whole it was the consensus of opinion that the leading pop lawyers in Holt county would be in the penitentiary inside of a year unless they changed their tactics.

As for Frank Foster I knew but little of him and care less. I know nothing of the case you refer to and it makes no difference to me if you get a judgment against the railroad company every ten minutes. What is the matter, is Dickson butting in on your system, or are you afraid that when, if ever McGreevy is tried, that it will be dangerous to attempt to fix the jury? The "jury fixing bill" appears to strike terror to your heart. Is it a fact that your business is now gone?

My friends, let us have a little history of our affairs at home. Several years ago a Mr. Ham Kautzman ran the "character assassin" and it was then as now the vilest publication in the state, and it had a 'Beacon Light' at its masthead. Every man in the county was abused, maligned, slandered, even the women failed to escape the vileness of this sheet. Having arrived but recently from New York, I always imagined that Bill Nye communities existed only in the fertile mind of the festive Bill, however that dream soon vanished, for it was during the times of the Barrett Scott trouble, the Holt County bank failed and Scott fled to Mexico, every time a man looked out of the window one or more of the present Independent editorial writers could be seen having a fit, usually accompanied by much noise.

Scott was brought home in chains, given a speedy trial and was convicted. When he appealed his case as he had a right to do, and the ball was fixed he came home to his family. The "character assassin" howled for murder and one day as this man, in the hands of the courts of our state was coming in from his farm, he, his choreboy, his wife, five-year-old daughter, and a girl of 16 who worked for her board and went to school, were held up on the public road, the buggy riddled with bullets, the school girl shot in the back and Scott, a man with one foot off and blind in one eye, shot in the side of the head and not seen again until dragged from the Niobrara river. This dastardly and cowardly crime and shooting of school children was brought about by such cowardly sneaks and agitators as are now and have been for many years writing lies about every honest man who has dared to openly mention or expose in any way the high handed carnival of corruption and graft that has run rampant by a few fusion lawyers, land sharks and political manipulators in this city. The strangest part of all this is to come, for after Mr. Kautzman sold out to an emissary of Harrington, he told me the following story which was: That when hired to come to O'Neill and assume charge of "The Beacon Light" and "Holt County Independent" they wanted two things understood. 1st, they wanted a large man physically, for a bluff. 2nd, they wanted it expressly understood that he was to abuse, malign, slander and tear to pieces the fair name of everyone, man or woman, who dared to oppose their plans, and if possible drive them from the county, if he did these things the road to wealth was easy. He further said that most of the slanderous articles were written by the pop leaders. This is Kautzman's story as he gave it to me.

It is a matter of common knowledge at present that J. P. Mullen was simply a wooden Indian in the hands of a few pop strikers, most of whom were owing large sums of money to Holt county for taxes, when the delinquent tax list exposed them a short time ago. What is peculiar to me is that with the return of J. P. Mullen to his life-time job, i. e., running for office, this same slander, abuse, and the same old lies begin again, just as Kautzman related to me. Rather strange, isn't it?

Now let us come down to more recent times. About a year ago the Elkhorn Valley bank failed and the president and cashier fled. Now within the borders of Grattan township we have, like "The Last of the Mohicans," the last of that political insanity known as populism, in full blast, though practically dead elsewhere and totally abandoned in some counties of the state. This township and city are good samples, therefore, of populism, or, to be more modern, "fusion," which, properly defined, is any old thing for graft and office. Let us, then, go over the exposures of the last year in which myself with many others participated, but not a single populist leader assisted in the work. On the other hand, they opposed every effort—these "saintly reformers"—to have the true conditions made known and are now furious at being shown up in their true light.

B. McGreevy was populist city treasurer and the municipality lost what money was entrusted to his keeping; he was school treasurer and the school district had a similar loss. I was appointed as treasurer after McGreevy decamped. An examination of the books, and warrants for several years conducted by Secretary G. W. Smith of the school board, resulted in startling disclosures. This investigation proved that he held money for long periods without making a call for the outstanding warrants, thereby piling up interest and

finally resulting in a loss of over \$2,500 and further investigation showed that warrants were paid a second time to himself making a shortage of \$4,300.

It appears after McGreevy skipped to Arizona his wife appeared at the court house and put on record a mortgage executed by McGreevy and in favor of the school district, simultaneously with four other mortgages on the identical piece of land. These mortgages were acknowledged by Donahoe, Harrington's man Friday; do you imagine for an instant this man went to consult Harrington's office boy and arrange to keep out of the penitentiary? Who but the skilled attorney who now defends McGreevy would fix up a better scheme. We hired R. R. Dickson and started to protect the district when we were made an offer of money for this land that staggered us. We took the money and released our claim to the land in question, they claiming to have sold the land for a high figure, but shortly after a letter came to a business man of O'Neill saying parties were trying to negotiate a loan on this land and asking its value. Funny sale! All pops!

The bank had part of its records vanish; who do you suppose gave them that advice? Certain parties having money in the bank and standing close to the pop ring leaders, got theirs out of the bank at a break neck pace; can you see why records disappeared?

Did it ever occur to you Mr. Reader that certain notes may have been turned over to parties who had no right to receive them and the destruction of the note register aided in protecting these sharp greedy scoundrels? Did it ever occur to you that a repetition of a former county treasurer's loss in a bank might again have been enacted, and that the motive for destroying the records of valuable papers might tell a great story if the truth were known. Two weeks ago depositors of this bank were invited to go and inspect mining stock in Washington held by these parties and exploited far and near by the pop tax shirkers of O'Neill to be turned over to the poor defrauded depositors.

I stood on the platform of the Northwestern depot the night that McGreevy was returned and to my surprise, saw a number of the O'Neill populist ringsters rush through the crowd and grasp the hand of this defaulter, who made away with nearly the same amount of money as Scott, as though he were a long lost brother. As I boarded the train for Ainsworth I thought how time changes things. Scott was brought back in chains, a bloodthirsty crowd clamored for his life and eventually assassinated him; I hope they sleep well nights. This last defaulter, McGreevy, was brought back by C. E. Hall, republican sheriff, and treated like a human being. The men who clamored for blood in one case, had a change of heart and fell upon the neck of the later defaulter and wept, but not for his trouble. Oh! no, not on your life! They wept because he had been captured and unless they got him out of his trouble he might tell things on the saints of populism. It is very evident that this gang of bogus reformers and character assassins are going to make good with McGreevy and see to it that he and his accessories are not punished, for he is today and has been

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all summer walking the streets of O'Neill as free as any citizen of this county, notwithstanding there has been several sessions of court since with no indications that he will ever be tried. My sleepy friend wake up and see a little for yourself, is it any wonder they want to stay in office?

The next case of populist high finance as pops run things, is Grattan township. Here also, the treasurer, a disciple of the pop machine, was nominated and elected treasurer. of the township, so his father informs me, before he was of legal age. He was drilled entirely by these saintly gentlemen and made his headquarters on election day in the offices of these friends of the people (?) from whence he emerged with much talk and display of money and was their chief lieutenant in getting out a good pop vote. They drilled him so well that he got away with over \$6,000 of the taxpayers money, but not the money of this gang of pop heeled for most of them pay but part of their tax, they figure on sneaking out of paying the most of it; if you don't believe it look at the delinquent tax list as first published, and look at their names. In trying to protect his name and being a bondsman his aged father gave in settlement about \$4,000 in money and in property and go down to his grave trying to pay that debt, and the most pitiful part of it all is, this old man don't grasp the idea of what ruined his son's life and burdens his old age, and he is still a pliant tool of this gang of populist grafters who write cowardly articles they are afraid to sign. Like the despicable octopus they spew forth a cloud of blackness and while the unwary are confused they suck the life blood of their victim.

The "character assassin" also states that the county is out of debt and undertakes to bestow the credit for this condition on a few fusion scandal mongers. This is in keeping with the brazen gall of the gang of tax shirkers that now owe Holt county \$18,000 in delinquent taxes. As shown by the delinquent scavenger tax list M. F. Harrington owes Holt county over \$9,000 in delinquent taxes on property owned by him and over \$900 of the amount is on the house in which he lives. A. F. Mullen is another howler about unjust taxation whose name appears frequently in the delinquent tax list.

One word more and I am done. When the Holt County Independent or character assassin stole the scavenger delinquent tax list, with the connivance of pop officials, he was just as much of a thief in my opinion as Barrett Scott or a bank wrecker. His only defense was it made no difference to the people, just let him alone and he would steal only from The Frontier. So my friend if a man stole your horse would the other thief also say this only affects the man who owned the horse, it makes no difference to the people—and this is populist doctrine as taught by the character assassin.

J. P. GILLIGAN.

Bassett Leader: Miss Florence Zink has received the republican nomination for county superintendent in Holt county. Miss Zink has made an excellent reputation here in her work and if the voters of Holt county are wise they will see that she is elected.

The fusionists are endeavoring to work a sympathetic game of vote getting on behalf of their candidate for county judge on the grounds that Simmons is a working man. What's the matter with Malone, the republican nominee, being a working man? Malone has never done anything but work for a livelihood, acquiring an education while working that ranks him among the best of scholars. Right now he is on the farm down in Inman township and does as much work every day as any man in Holt county.

Brown county republicans entrusted the candidacy for superintendent of public instruction to a woman. Republicans set the pace in this county with a woman candidate and the fusionists followed the lead. The women form by far the larger per cent of the able educational class, and while one of the original tenets of populism was the enfranchisement of woman, it remained for republicans to recognize her superior worth and natural right as an educator. The

women are doing the teaching; republicans propose to let them superintend.

Omaha Bee: The Bee will offer no apology for not sending out a special commission to meet Pat Crowe to ascertain what he wishes to have published about himself. It leaves that sort of enterprise to its sensational contemporaries which make a specialty of Police Gazette journalism and try to keep in touch with outlaws and criminals. The Bee has no disposition to exaggerate the importance of notoriety seeking kidnapers. It will print the facts as they develop as a matter of current information, but draws the line at making a hero out of a dangerous desperado.

The Bee takes a commendable position in this instance. There is nothing more disgusting to intelligent people than heroizing a depraved and desperate criminal.

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